

THREE Quizzes and a Comic ★ Super Pretty Animal Posters

May/June 2015

American Girl

americangirlmagazine.com

36 ideas
for spring

* Have a
sparkly
sleepover!

* Yummy
brownie
creations



Plus!

Read about a
totally inspiring
girl musician

ADVERTISEMENT

Everything a girl could wish for—and more!

Plan a party she'll never forget at American Girl.



Create a **Deluxe Party Package** with special add-ons! Reservations at 877-247-5223.

Fun today. Memories forever!

 **American Girl®**

Call 877-247-5223 or go to americangirl.com to plan your party.

Must be at least 18 years of age to purchase.

©/TM 2015 American Girl



EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
Jean McKenzie



EDITORIAL DIRECTOR
Jodi Goldberg

EXECUTIVE EDITOR
Barbara E. Stretchberry

SENIOR EDITOR
Mary Richards Beaumont

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Melissa Seymour

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS
Elizabeth Ansfield, Teri Robida



SENIOR MANAGER, CREATIVE
Douglas Bantz

ART DIRECTORS
Dan Nordskog, Paula Riley

CONTRIBUTING ART DIRECTOR
Lisa Wilber

PRODUCTION MANAGER
Paula Moon

MASTER GRAPHIC ARTIST
Lisa Bunesco

SENIOR GRAPHIC ARTIST
Kristi Tabrizi



CONTRIBUTING WRITER
Kitson Jazynka



MARKETING MANAGERS
D'Ann Jackson, Shawn Niebeling
SENIOR CIRCULATION COORDINATOR
Heather Hempel Gomez



SPECIAL THANKS TO
Patti Kelley Criswell, Meagan Eggers,
Judith Lary, Kyla Newton, Cynthia Reynolds,
Jolene Schulz, Mark Speltz, Ann Marie Yeap

Cover Credits: Wardrobe styling: Aubre Andrus. Hair: Susie Lee.

AMERICAN GIRL® (ISSN 1062-7812, Canadian Sales Agreement Number 40635507) is published bimonthly by American Girl Publishing, 8400 Fairway Place, Middleton WI 53562. Copyright © 2015 American Girl. All rights reserved. Subscription rates: One year (six issues) \$24.95. Non-U.S. subscriptions \$29 U.S. Funds. Single issues (current or back copies) \$4.95. Prices subject to change. Periodical postage paid at Madison, Wisconsin, and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to American Girl, PO Box 5535, Harlan IA 51593-1035.

CUSTOMER SERVICE: 800-234-1278. SUBSCRIBERS: Send change of address information six weeks before moving to American Girl, PO Box 5535, Harlan IA 51593-1035. Send old address label (recent mailing label is best), new address, and new telephone number, or call 800-234-1278. Occasionally, American Girl makes its list of adult and family names available to other reputable companies for their offering of products and services. We make every effort to ensure that girls' names are not included on this list. If you prefer not to receive such mail, please call our customer service department at 800-234-1278 or write to us at 8400 Fairway Place, Middleton WI 53562. EDITORIAL OFFICES: American Girl, Editorial Department, 8400 Fairway Place, Middleton WI 53562. American Girl Publishing cannot accept liability for loss or damage of photographs or other materials. Unsolicited materials will be returned only if accompanied by a self-addressed stamped envelope. All submissions received by American Girl become the sole property of American Girl Publishing and may be used by American Girl Publishing or its parent or affiliated companies without compensation or acknowledgment. Even though instructions have been tested and results from testing were incorporated into this magazine, all recommendations and suggestions are made without any guarantees on the part of American Girl. Because of differing tools, materials, ingredients, conditions, and individual skills, the publisher disclaims liability for any injuries, losses, or other damages that may result from using the information in this magazine. Not all craft materials are tested to the same standards as toy products. American Girl®, Follow Your Inner Star®, Girls Express®, and According to Aggie® are trademarks of American Girl. American Girl trademarks cannot be used without the express written consent of American Girl.

AMERICAN GIRL IS PUBLISHED BY
AMERICAN GIRL PUBLISHING
8400 Fairway Place
Middleton WI 53562

E-mail address: readermail@americangirl.com
americangirlmagazine.com



Winner of a Parents' Choice Silver Award, 2015



Printed in the USA on paper containing at least 10% post-consumer waste.
Recycle me or pass me on to a friend.



Contents

Volume 23, Number 3

Follow Your Inner Star™

Girls Express 2

Contest 8

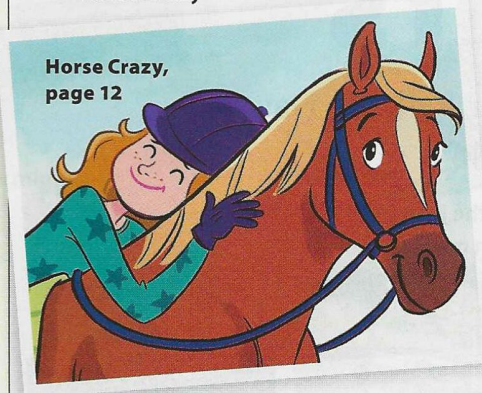
Rainbow Runway

Speak Up! 10

Gadgets

According to Aggie... 12

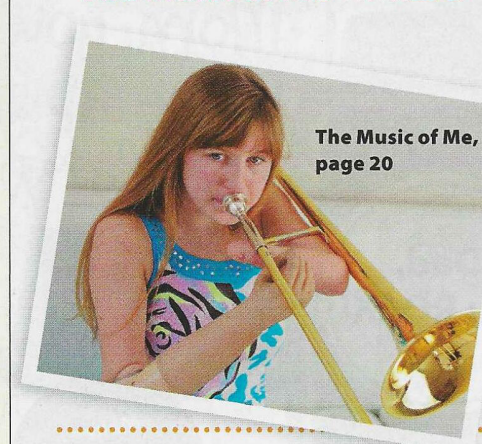
Horse Crazy



Fun for One! 14

Glam-a-Pajama 16

The Music of Me 20

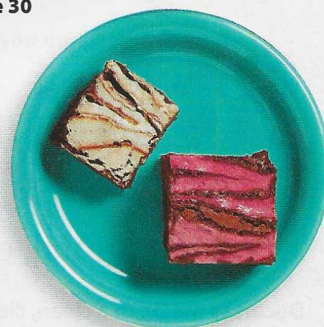


To Do Today 24

Checking In! 28

Brownie Bonanza 30

Brownie Bonanza,
page 30



The Party Invitation 34

Travel Bug 42

Posters 43

Help! 45

Behind the Scenes... 48

Plus AG's Kindness Catcher!



Safety first!

Some of our projects and activities require an adult's help.

When you see this symbol, be sure to ask an adult to work with you.

Girls

E X P R E S S

Star Jars

Celebrate Mother's Day or Father's Day with a thoughtful, easy gift.

Decorate the lid of a clean, clear jar. Fill the jar with items your parent would enjoy, and then make a cute, clever tag that matches the filling.



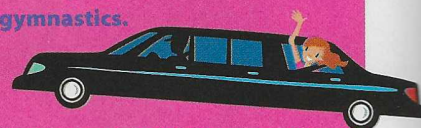
Meet an AG Reader

Isobelle F.

Age 10, Massachusetts

In my free time, I like to sketch, jump rope, cook, read, play board games, and look through AG magazines.

My proudest day: That was the day I got a medal in gymnastics.



My dream birthday party: I'd ride to a water park or theme park in a limo.

A word people would use to describe me: kind

My favorite funny word is sassafras.

The best spot in my home is my bedroom—that's because I have a loft bed with a desk underneath.

A time I laughed so hard I could hardly breathe: Once I was using a loom to make a rubber-band bracelet. When I took the finished bracelet off the loom, the whole bracelet fell apart!

A time I wanted to disappear: I was holding a rubber-band bracelet, and it went flying—right into a boy who liked me.

Introduce Yourself!

To find out how to be a featured reader, go to americangirl.com/playmagazine

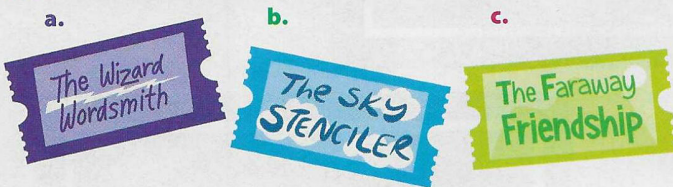
Signature Style

Which yearbook sign-off is most like your personality?

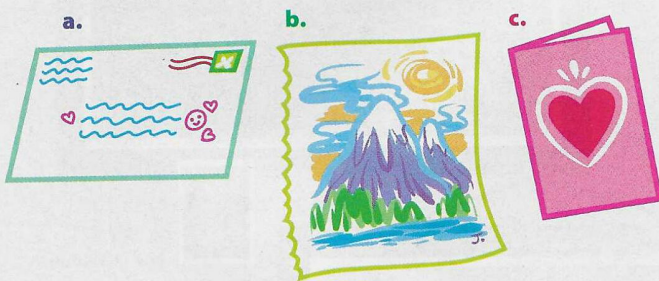
1. A T-shirt you designed might look like this:



2. A movie ticket you bought might look like this:



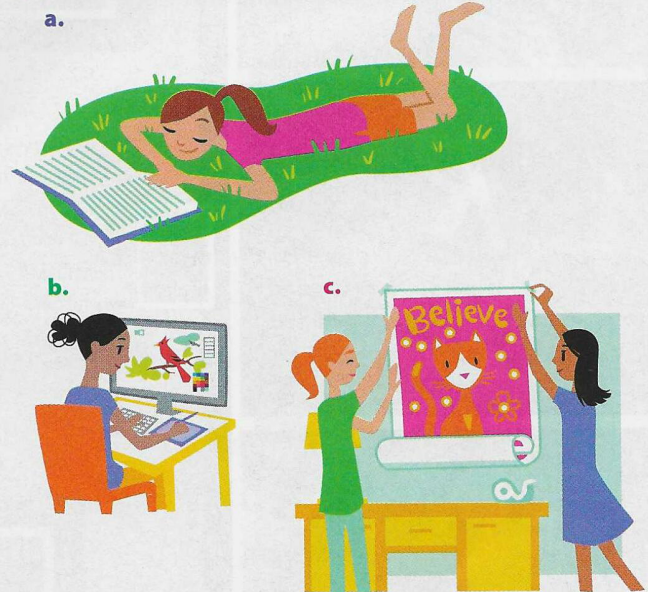
3. Something you mailed to your grandma might look like this:



4. The textbook for your dream class might look like this:



5. An awesome afternoon for you might look like this:



Answers

Mostly a's

Lovely Letter



Mostly c's

Short-and-sweet
Signature

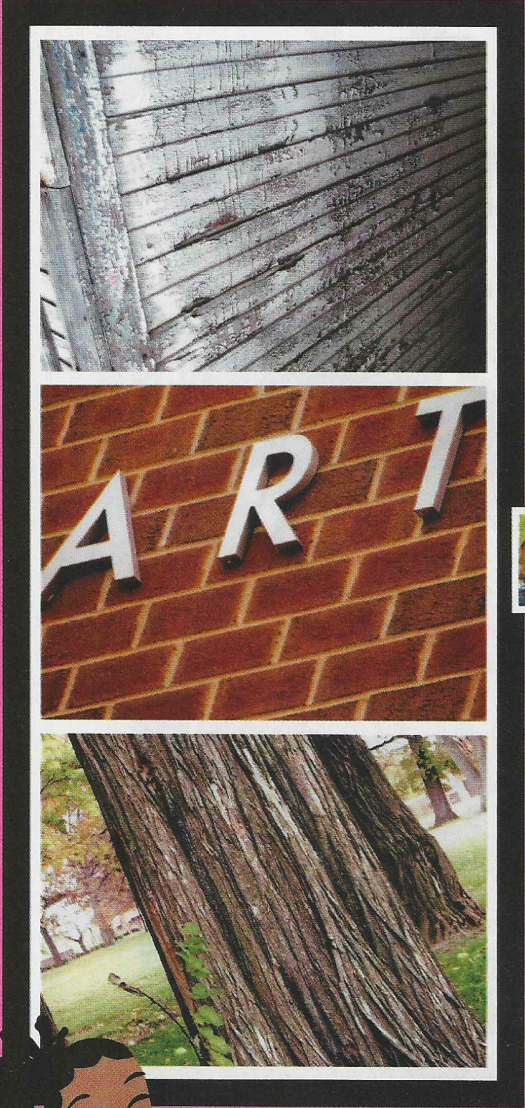
Mostly b's

Darling Doodle

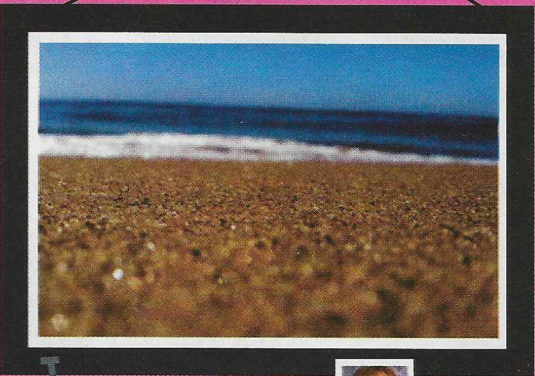
AG Art Gallery

These girls find beauty in everything.

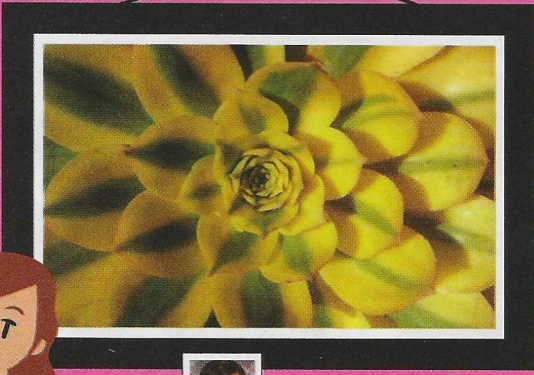
Help us fill our gallery!
Send color copies of
your **original artwork**
or **photos** to the address
on page 7. Sorry, we
can't return entries.



Lea H.
Age 12, Illinois



Maggie Y.
Age 12, Ohio



They're
sisters! →



Lauren Z.
Age 13, Michigan



Sophia Z.
Age 10, Michigan



Shining Star

Vivienne H. was upset when she learned that some children in the world are forced to work like adults instead of going to school. "It breaks my heart," Vivienne says. "Kids should all be able to play and be happy."

The 11-year-old California girl learned about this global issue when she was eight. A picture of two young boys from another part of the world caught her attention. The boys were about the same age as her own little brother. It made her sad to see the boys suffer.

"I said to myself, 'Child slavery isn't right, and I'm going to do something to stop it,'" she recalls.

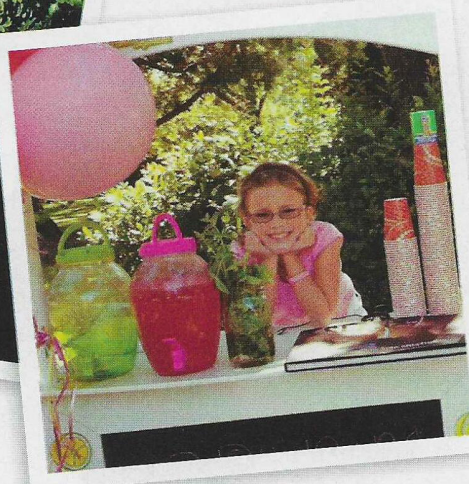
With help from her family, Vivienne set up a painted wooden lemonade stand outside her house. Her stand was open for business every day for a year (365 days in a row). She counted

the days on a chalkboard and never gave up—although she did shut down early one day when it hailed. She sold a lot of lemonade, raising more than \$100,000 to give to organizations working to rescue children. Her lemonade is now bottled and sold in some stores, helping Vivienne to make sure even more people learn about how some children in the world are treated poorly.

"The lemonade stand was just one of those things," she says, "like, you know, you plant a seed and it turns into a flower."

You can shine, too.

Your sale doesn't have to run for an entire year in order to make a difference. Ask a parent if you can sell baked goods or crafts in your neighborhood, and donate your earnings to a cause you care about.



Answer these questions, and then turn the page to see how your answers compare to those of other AG readers.

What would make your birthday party extra special?

- * A fireworks show
- * A concert by your favorite singer
- * A backyard carnival
- * A gown made just for you

If you were to cook a meal for your family, what would you make?

- * Spaghetti and meatballs
- * Macaroni and cheese
- * Colorful salads
- * Pizza

What would you do to raise money for charity?

- * Hold a bake sale
- * Sell bracelets or other crafts
- * Do extra chores
- * Walk neighbors' dogs

Girls' parties would be extra special with

50%

concerts by their favorite singers.

15%

backyard carnivals.

22%

gown made just for them.

13%

fireworks shows.

For their families, girls would make

40%

pizza.

18%

macaroni and cheese.

26%

spaghetti and meatballs.

16%

colorful salads.

To raise money for charity, girls would

40%

sell bracelets or other crafts.

18%

walk neighbors' dogs.

31%

hold bake sales.

11%

do extra chores.

To answer our weekly poll question, go to
americangirl.com/playmagazine

True Story

Saying good-bye to a puppy she raised is the best—and hardest—part of Molly's job.

Dear American Girl,

I may be the luckiest person ever, thanks to the very special puppies in my life. I'm a volunteer puppy raiser for an organization that provides service dogs for people who are blind. My job is to care for the puppy for the first year of her life, train her, and introduce her to the world.

It's so amazing to hold a puppy that is just seven weeks old. I cried when my family got the call that my first puppy, Wren, was coming to me. It had taken me forever to convince my parents to let me do this job. Wren was so warm and soft and cuddly, and she had a cute puppy smell.

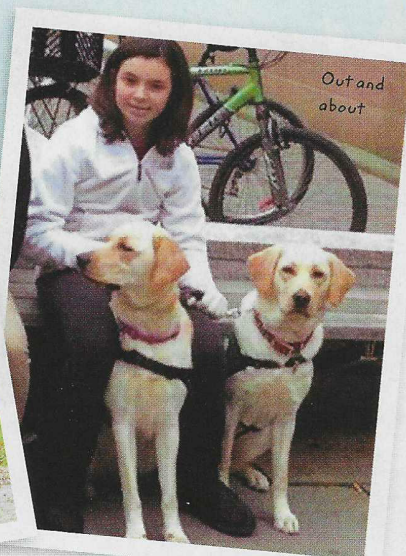
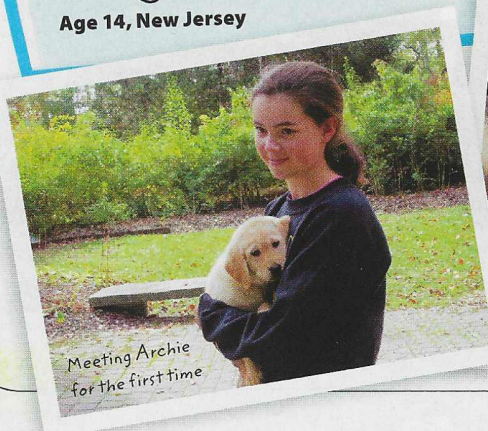
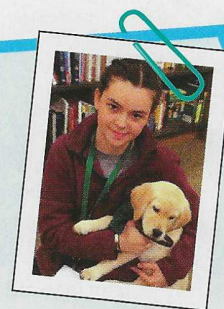
I loved Wren like she was my own. I house-trained her and taught her "sit" and "stay." We went on long walks, played fetch in the yard, and cuddled. I took her to the movies, to a museum, and even on an airplane.

Giving her back was hard. But I got through it knowing that she was going on to learn the important job of helping someone who needed her. And now I have Archie. Like Wren, she's a golden retriever mix, and I got her at seven weeks old.

Some parts of being a puppy raiser are hard, such as having to say good-bye after a year. But some parts are great, like, I get to fall in love with more than one puppy. I know I'll be a puppy raiser my whole life.

Sincerely,
Molly G.

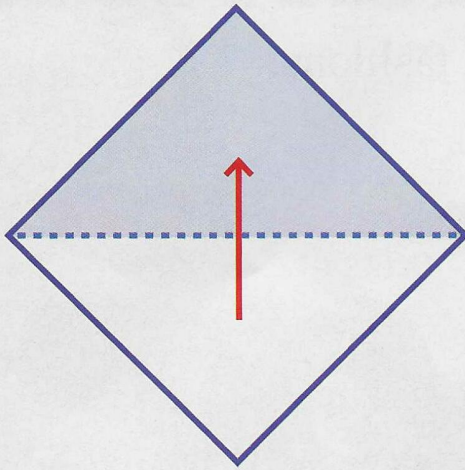
Age 14, New Jersey



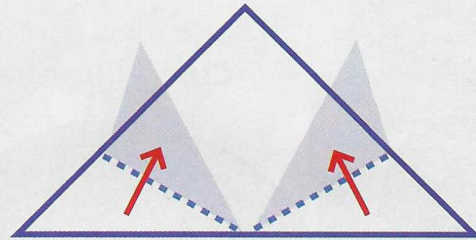
Kitty-gami

Make an adorable kitten with a few fast folds.

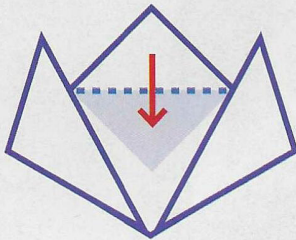
1.



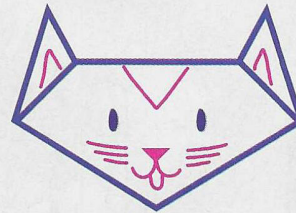
2.



3.



4. Flip.



Add a
cute face.
Meow!

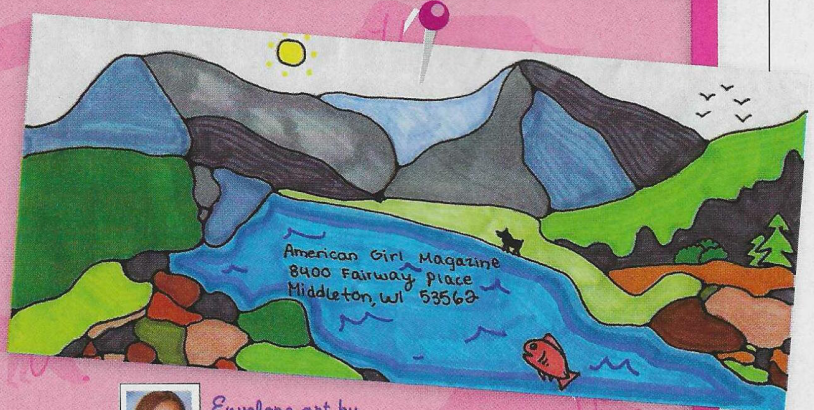
Write to Us

Be sure to include your

- * First and last name
- * Address and phone number
- * Birth date, including year
- * School photo or other portrait
- * Parent's signature

Send us a cool envelope! Print our address neatly on the front and your return address on the back.

We can't print every letter, but we read everything you send to us. Hope to hear from you soon! ★



Envelope art by
Abby K.
Age 13, Illinois



Rainbow Runway

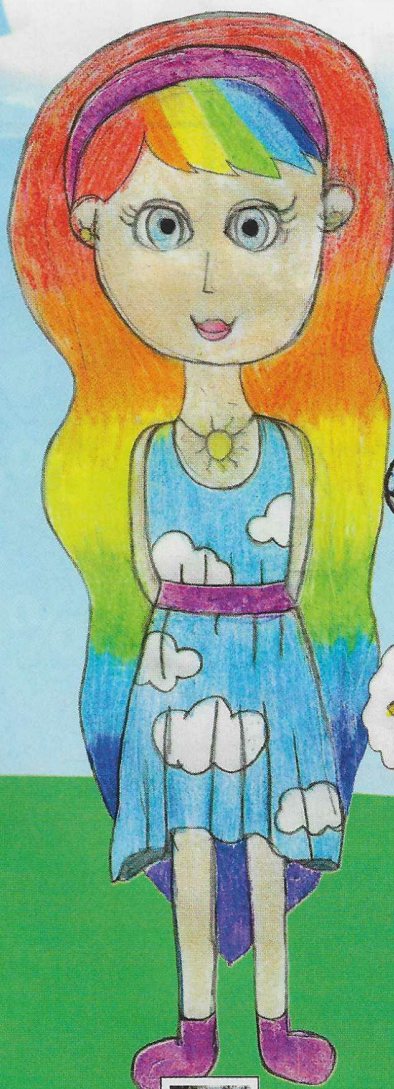
Your style shines bright in these colorful fashions!

Fun and Funky



Sarah F.
Age 14, Massachusetts

Cloud Couture



Ruby S.
Age 11, Kentucky

**Boot-kickin'
Brilliant**



Olivia K.
Age 11, Massachusetts

**Bold and
Bright**



Lyla B.
Age 11, Wisconsin

Mismatched Magic



Aubrey W.
Age 11, Ohio

Tutu Terrific



Emma B.
Age 9, California

Chevron Chic



Jessica M.
Age 11, Texas

Sweet Stripes



Laura V.
Age 8, Michigan

New Contest: Elf Portrait

Draw yourself as an elf. Do you have pointy ears, curly-toed shoes, a feather in your cap? To send us your original elf self-portrait, follow the instructions on page 7. **Postmark deadline: June 10, 2015.** Winners will appear in the November/December 2015 issue. Sorry—we can't return entries.



Gadgets

30% of you have a cell phone.

32% of you have a tablet.

10% of you have an e-reader.

24% of you have a laptop.

4% of you do not have any of these gadgets.

Some of you have more than one of these gadgets!



Do you share your passwords with your parents?

51% of you do.

35% of you do not.

10% of you don't have any passwords.

4% of you don't have to share them but choose to anyway.



How many texts do you send on an average day?

54% of you send just a few.

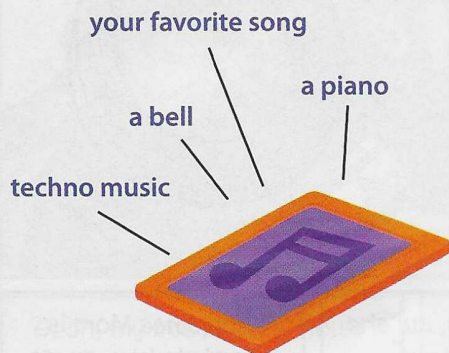
8% of you send 100 or more.

8% of you send between 50 and 99.

30% of you send none.



**Your favorite
ringtone is...**



**You love the
smiley emoji
most!**



**Do you have any of these school
rules? No gadgets during...**



34% of you said no gadgets
are allowed during class.

20% of you said gadgets must
be turned off at school.

19% of you said gadgets aren't
allowed in lockers or bags.

25% of you said gadgets aren't
allowed at school at all.

2% of you said gadgets are
allowed on the bus only.

**If you could invent an
app, it would...**

- * Tell you what your pet was thinking
- * Create an outfit and then have the clothes sent to you
- * Make real gum or candy
- * Assist you with homework
- * Tell the future



Coming Up: Names

**1. If you could change your
real name, would you?**

Yes

OR

No

**2. Where did your name
come from?**

a. A relative

b. A fictional character

c. A celebrity or other
famous person

d. My parents just liked it

e. Other (please list)

**3. Do you have a nickname?
What is it?**

**4. Who gave you your
nickname?**

a. Parents

b. Siblings

c. Another family member

d. Friends

e. Yourself

**5. Make your name into art!
Write your name and
decorate the letters to
match your personality.**

Send your answers to the
address on page 7, along
with your first and last name,
address, school or portrait-
style photo, and birth date.
Postmark deadline: June 10,
2015. Some answers will
appear in the November/
December 2015 issue. ★



According to Aggie™

Horse Crazy

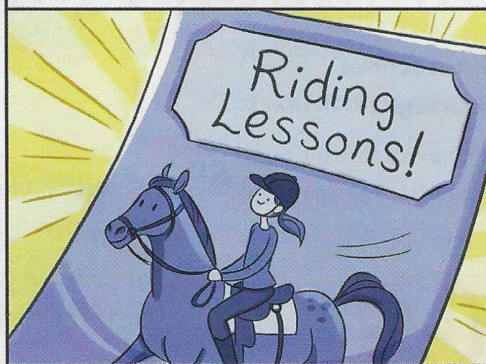
Illustrated by Genevieve Kote



Mom found a charity that was selling raffle tickets to raise money for the children's hospital. She really wanted to win the trip to Paris—which would have been AMAZING.



Her ticket number was drawn, but she didn't get the Paris trip. Instead ...



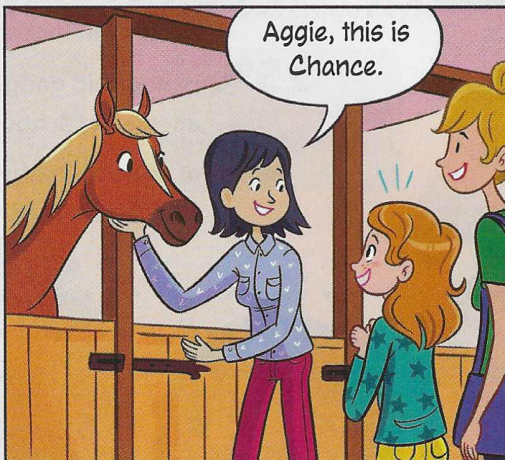
And since Mom is allergic to hay, guess who gets to go?



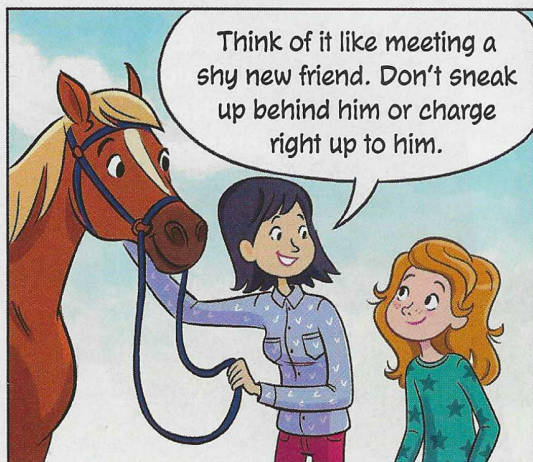
I couldn't wait for my first day at the stables.



Aggie, this is Chance.



Think of it like meeting a shy new friend. Don't sneak up behind him or charge right up to him.



Ready?
On three.



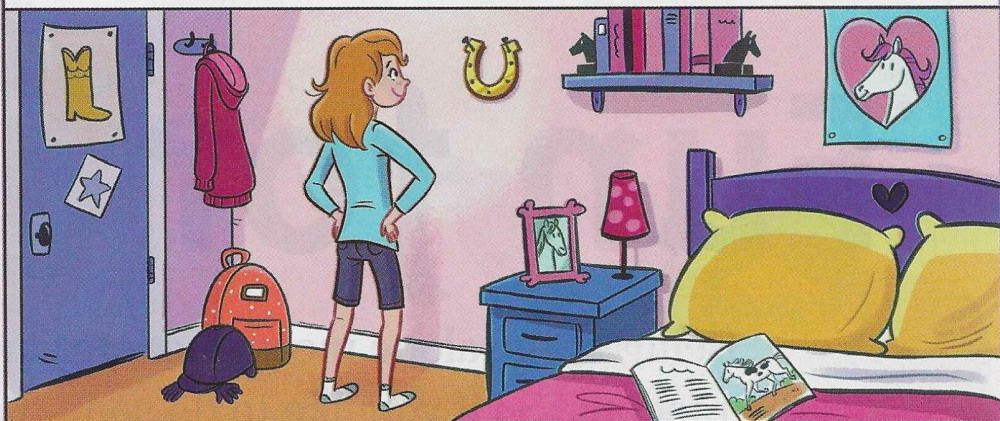
Like this. You use the reins to tell Chance what you want him to do, and you don't want to confuse him.



What's better than a trip to Paris?
THIS.



It was the most fun I've ever had. I loved riding. I LOOOVVVED Chance.



Soon, my free lessons would be up. I was all set to beg Mom and Dad to let me keep going, and then I saw THIS.



So ... what if WE bought him? I could do LOTS of extra chores, and ...



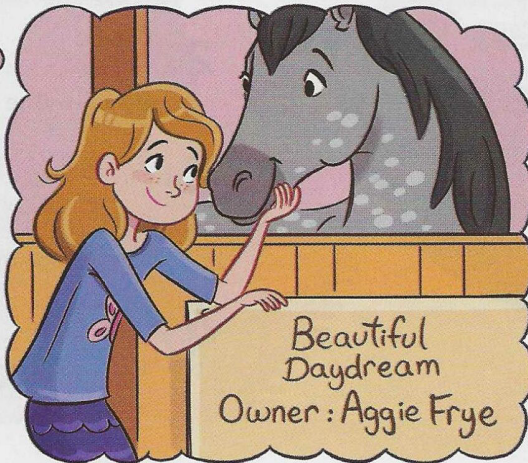
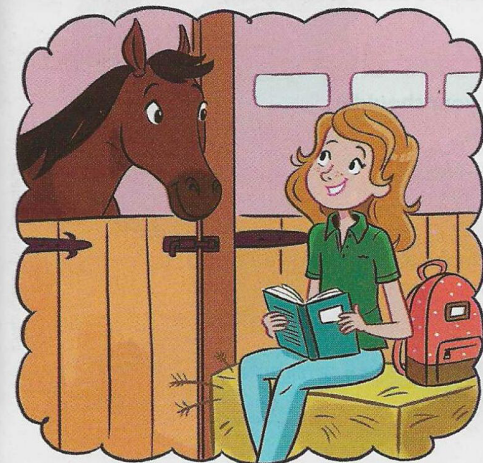
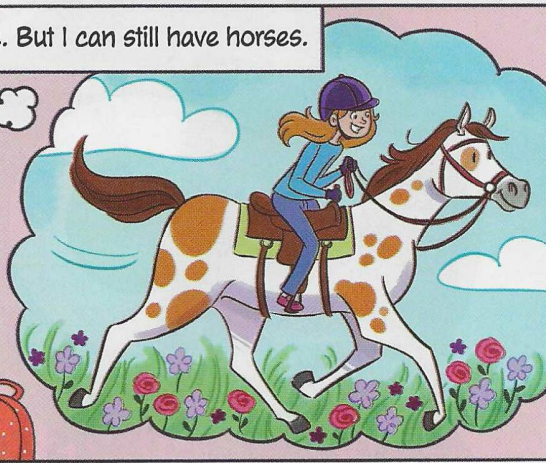
Aggie, it's fun to think about having your own horse. It's like imagining that you're famous or that you won the lottery. You can dream about it all you want, but—



We cannot buy a horse.



So I can't have Chance. But I can still have horses.



Don't miss my next misadventure:
THE GREEN SCENE



Fun for One!

Being home alone means no interruptions and no distractions. So if you like to do something that requires privacy or total concentration, now's your time to do it.

by Dottie Raymer



Top Ten Things to Do When You're Home Alone

1. Anything annoying!

Blow bubble gum. Sing loudly into your hairbrush. Practice a cheer over and over. Do whatever you love that others don't!

2. Write secrets in your diary.

No one will be around to peek over your shoulder.

3. Practice an instrument or a dance routine.

Being alone usually means you can make all the noise you want!

4. Become an expert.

Pick a subject you love and learn as much as you can about it.

5. Write a letter to a pen pal.

Use this time to keep in touch with your faraway friends.

6. Decorate your room.

Create a space you love to be in.

7. Read a novel.

Or pick up a pen and write a novel yourself!

8. Make a scrapbook.

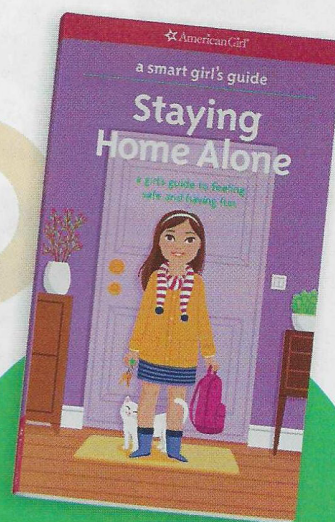
Create a theme such as A Year in My Life, My Favorite Things, or My Summer Vacation. Fill your scrapbook with photos, drawings, newspaper clippings, ticket stubs—whatever tells your story.

9. Learn something new.

Use your time alone to develop a new skill. You'll find books at your local library on everything from juggling to origami.

10. Make a present.

Treat someone in your family to a special homemade gift. Creating the gift while that person's not at home will make it easy to keep it a surprise.



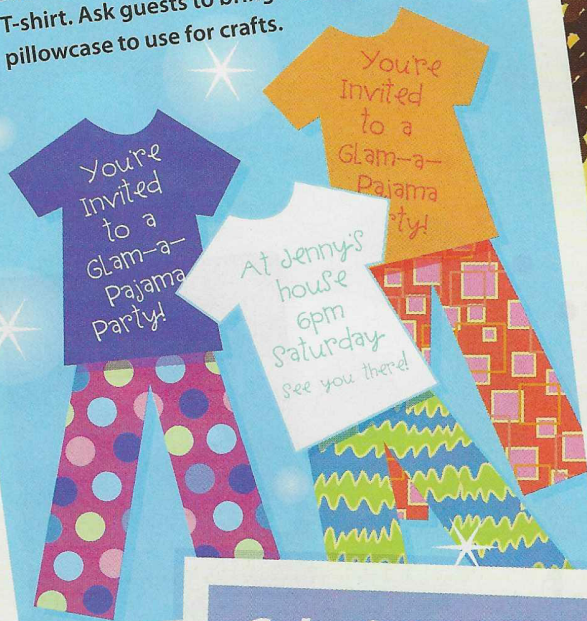
More on-your-own advice
can be found in the book
**A Smart Girl's Guide:
Staying Home Alone.** ★

Glam-a-Pajama

It's a slumber party full of sparkle and smiles!

Invitation

Cut pajama pants shapes from patterned paper. Glue a plain T-shirt shape to each pair of pants and write the party information on the paper T-shirt. Ask guests to bring flip-flops and a pillowcase to use for crafts.



Sleepy-Time Headband

Wear your hair in a special sleepover style. Tightly tie ribbons into tiny bows around a stretchy headband. Trim the ends of the ribbons.



Colorful Cake

Turn a plain cake into a masterpiece! Press colorful candies and sprinkles onto a store-bought frosted cake. Keep the cake in the refrigerator until guests arrive.



Pillowcase Pouch

Use a pillowcase for this craft. Draw a star on a piece of fleece. Place the star on top of another color of fleece and trace around it, leaving a border. Cut it out. Repeat until you have 4 different sizes. Place the pillowcase on a covered work surface and put a piece of cardboard inside. Use fabric glue to attach the stars to the pillowcase. Let dry, and remove the cardboard. Use the bag to hold your slumber party gear!



Party Favors

Get the party started by giving each of your friends a small gift bag filled with glam such as a small mirror, a mini hairbrush, and sparkly hair accessories.





So Smoothies

✎ In a blender, combine
3 cups orange juice with
3 cups vanilla frozen yogurt.
Ask an adult to blend well.
Pour into glasses.

Dance Mash-Up

Work together to develop a dance routine. First, write each of these words on a separate slip of paper: arms, legs, head, feet, hands. (Make sure you have a slip of paper for each guest. Repeating words is OK.) Have

each guest draw a slip of paper. Each girl must think of a dance move for her assigned part and teach the other guests. After learning everyone's moves, turn on some music and put all the dance moves together!



Surprise Salon

Take turns being the hairstylist in this silly challenge. First, ask guests to provide their own hair accessories. Then the "stylist" gets 1 minute to do another guest's hair—with her eyes closed! (Be careful not to pull or tangle anyone's hair.) When time's up, check out your surprising style!



Fancy Feet

Turn a pair of flip-flops into sparkly slippers. Trace each flip-flop onto fleece. Cut out the shapes, and cut a slit where the center strap needs to fit. Glue the fleece to the flip-flop. Let dry. Decorate the straps with rhinestone stickers.



The Mus



ic of Me

Meet Sara M., a 12-year-old trombone player who gives her all in performances and in life.

I love music. When I hear it, I don't just hear sounds, I hear a kind of magic. Music is full of life and energy. I listen to all types, on my mp3 player or even the radio. To be honest, I don't just listen to the music. It's more like I feel it. Sometimes I even play the piano just to hear notes. Music makes me feel good about myself.

When I was little, I played the bongos. And I had a guitar that I didn't know how to play, but I'd make songs by plucking at the strings. In fourth grade, I started playing trombone. It's a big brass instrument but really lightweight. It has three parts: a mouthpiece, a slide, and the bell, where the sound comes out. It makes a low, powerful sound. I practice about four hours a week.

All of this might not seem like a big deal for a lot of kids, but there's something about me that makes me a bit different from others. The thing is, I was born without hands. Since I was about a year old, I've worn *prosthetics*, which are artificial body parts. (Say it like this: pross-THET-ix.) I've tried a few different types of prosthetic hands. Some had straps over my shoulders. The ones I have now fit over my arms up to my elbows.

There are sensors inside that connect to the muscles that would move my hands if they were there. When I move those muscles, it causes the prosthetic hands to work in a pinching motion. They are called *myoelectric* hands.

It's music that taught me that I am capable—even while people constantly underestimate me, doubting that I can do things. For example, when it came to playing the trombone, I just figured it out. I learned that I could move the slide back and forth with my right prosthetic while holding it in the crook of my left elbow. I was so, so happy when I worked it out. I felt like bouncing off the walls! I was ready to learn, and I didn't take no for an answer.



Practicing trombone

May



Sunday

Go camping in your backyard! Ask a parent if you can set up a tent and other camping materials outside. Invite your friends over and enjoy the great outdoors.

3

Monday

Send a postcard to a friend you haven't seen in a while. He or she will love the surprise!



5

Tuesday

It's National Teacher's Day. Let your teacher know why he or she is great by making a thoughtful card. Decorate it using colorful markers and stickers.

May

It's Mother's Day! Make your mom breakfast and give her the bracelet you made!



10

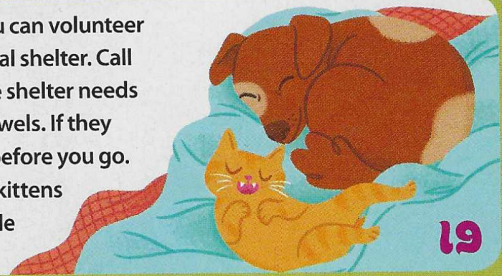


Each time you play with your AG Kindness Catcher, you'll brighten someone's day. Use your fortune-teller and find a new way to show a friend or family member you care. Have fun and make the world a better place!



24/31

Ask a parent if you can volunteer at your local animal shelter. Call and find out if the shelter needs old blankets or towels. If they do, collect them before you go. The puppies and kittens will love to snuggle up in them.

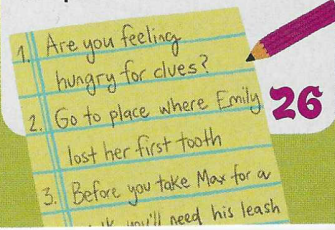


19

Come up with your own This or That questions and ask a friend to answer them!

25

Set up a scavenger hunt in your house for your friends or siblings. See who can complete it first.



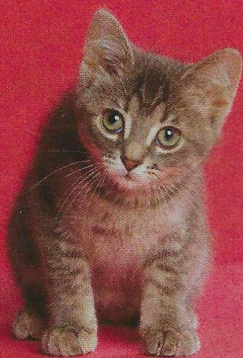
26

Try these fun-filled activities as the weather begins to warm up!



Wednesday

Find pictures of adorable animals online with a parent and come up with captions that explain what they're thinking.



13

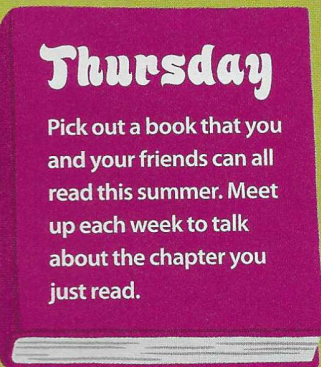
Call and see if your local police station needs stuffed animals for kids dealing with scary situations. If they do, collect them from friends or family and bring them to the station.



27

Thursday

Pick out a book that you and your friends can all read this summer. Meet up each week to talk about the chapter you just read.



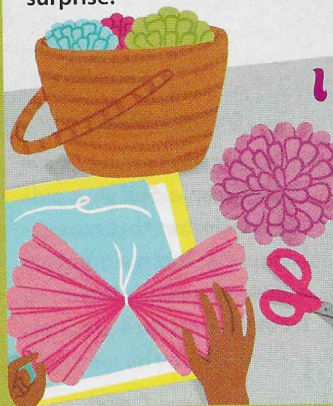
Spend the day outside practicing your favorite sport. If you don't have a favorite sport, take a nice walk in the sun.



21

Friday

Happy May Day! Use tissue paper to make flowers and then put them in a basket. Deliver it to a friend as a surprise.



1

Saturday

Happy Brother and Sister Day! Spend the day outside with your siblings and let them choose the activity you do.

2

Use string and colored beads to make a cute bracelet. Give it to your mom tomorrow. To make it extra special, use colors that your mom loves.

9

Buy shells from your local craft store. Paint them different colors and place them in a clear glass. This colorful decoration will brighten up any room.

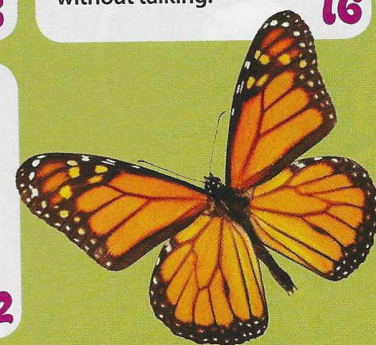
15

Play charades with your family. Have everyone write activities down on slips of paper, and then put them in a bowl. Take turns drawing the slips and acting out the activities without talking!

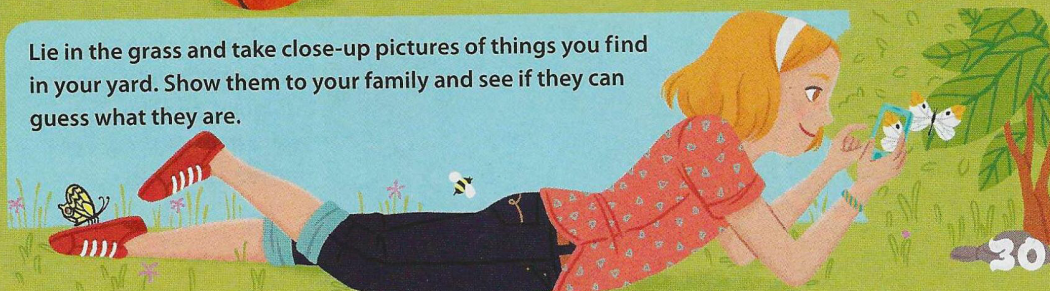
16

Make a pretend magazine with your friends or siblings. Have each person write a story or draw a picture and then put them together. You can even make copies and hand them out to family and friends.

22



Lie in the grass and take close-up pictures of things you find in your yard. Show them to your family and see if they can guess what they are.



30



June

Monday

Ask a parent if you can make a garden in your backyard or plant seeds in flowerpots and keep them inside.

1

Tuesday

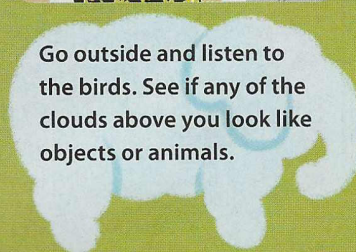
Come up with new hairstyles and practice them with friends. Then have a fashion show and model your new 'dos!

9



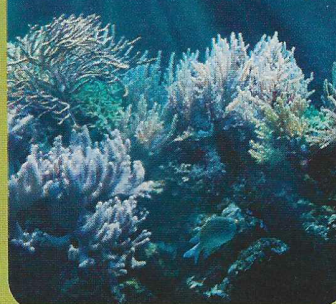
Go outside and listen to the birds. See if any of the clouds above you look like objects or animals.

16



Happy World Oceans Day! Label your recycling bins and remind your family members where to put each disposable. Challenge yourself to not use plastic water bottles—stick with reusable ones!

8



Sunday

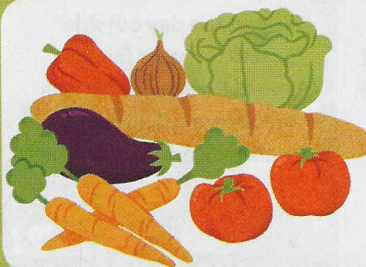
Ask a parent if you can have a garage sale. Sell your old toys or clothes that no longer fit. This is a great way to remove clutter from your room.

7



It's Father's Day! Make your dad breakfast and give him a handmade card.

21



Visit a local farmers' market. Help your parents make dinner later that night using the food you bought. Delicious!

23

Draw the outline of an ocean critter (like a seal or dolphin), and then try to color it in with your eyes closed. Hilarious!

29

Watch the sun set. ★

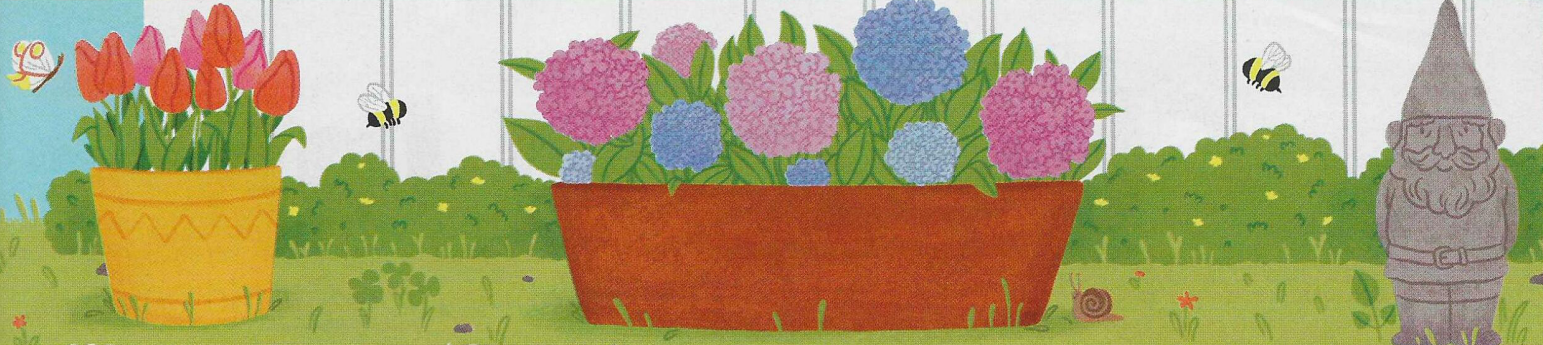


30

For

Do

to



Wednesday

Visit a local history museum. Each time you enter a new exhibit, write or imagine a short story about what your life would be like in that time period or culture.

3

Thursday

Create a long hopscotch challenge with your friends. When you finish, invite other kids who live near you to come and try it out!



Friday

Saturday

Look for bugs in your backyard. Make up a story about the first bug. Each time you find a new bug, add it to your story.



10



Ask an adult if you can decorate an old pillowcase. Use fabric markers to create your own designs or write a short phrase on the pillowcase. Slip the case onto a pillow and use it to cheer up your room!

11

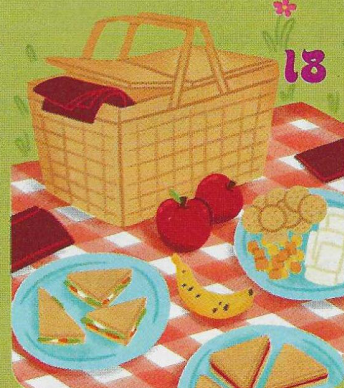
Put together a talent show with your friends. Perform your talents outside and cheer each other on.

12

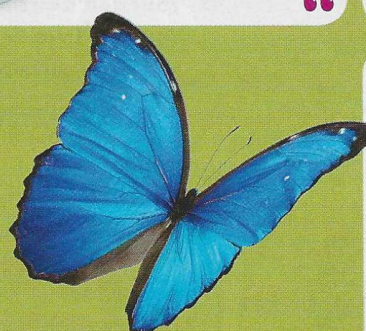
Invite your friends over and make friendship bracelets. Draw names and have each friend braid a string bracelet for another friend so each person gets one.

17

Happy International Picnic Day! Have a picnic at a nearby park with your friends or family. Ask each guest to bring a different type of food. Enjoy!



18



Take pictures outside and then make a summer collage in your room.

26

Bake cookies with a parent and then deliver them to one of your neighbors.



27

Have a cupcake-decorating party! Each girl decorates her own cupcake in secret. Once everyone is finished, close your eyes and ask an adult to put them in the middle of the table. Guess who made which cupcake!

24



Checking In!

Answer these fun questions to find which hotel you should own.

1. You're invited to your friend's cabin for the weekend. Your first thought is:

- a.** The great outdoors?
Can we go hiking? Yes, please!
- b.** Will there be running water?
And a television?
- c.** A good book and some sun
will suit me just fine.
- d.** How sweet of her.
She's such a nice friend.

2. At family holiday parties you're usually...

- a.** playing outside with your
younger cousins.
- b.** chatting with the adults.
- c.** watching TV or resting.
- d.** helping to make a special
dessert for after dinner.



3. Your favorite thing about summer is...

- a.** the camping adventure you go
on every year with your family.
- b.** hanging at the pool and catching
up with friends.
- c.** taking time for yourself—doing
crafts or watching that movie
you've been dying to see.
- d.** helping your parents with
your younger siblings.

4. At your summer art class you are painting...

- a.** yourself climbing Mount Everest.
- b.** New York City, of course.
- c.** a hot beach in Mexico.
- d.** a quaint town in Ireland.



5. Your dad's birthday is coming up. You decide to...

- a.** take him on a spontaneous
fishing trip.
- b.** save up your money and buy
him a cool shirt.
- c.** go to the movies with him.
- d.** volunteer to take the trash out for
a month so he can have a break.



6. Your bedroom walls are covered with...

- a.** giant posters of mountains
you'd like to visit someday.
- b.** colorful wall decals—it's the
new trend.
- c.** cool, calming colors and pretty
white lights.
- d.** pictures of adorable baby animals.



7. Your mom said she'd take you shopping after you get your allowance. You're excited to look for...

- a.** new soccer cleats.
- b.** a colorful new bedspread.
- c.** sunglasses and a big floppy hat.
- d.** a surprise present for your
little brother.

8. This summer you're going to spend much of your time...

- a.** perfecting your gymnastics
routine.
- b.** planning the perfect sleepover
party.
- c.** relaxing with friends.
- d.** volunteering at your local
animal shelter.

9. Your dream camp would be...

- a.** adventure camp.
- b.** acting camp.
- c.** spa camp.
- d.** horse camp.



Mostly a's: Mountain Lodge

You love the outdoors and enjoy anything that involves adventure. You're on cloud nine anytime you're climbing, hiking, running, or exploring. The world is such a big place and there's so much to see! You love to be on the move—especially if you're doing so with friends or your family. Running a mountain lodge would be a dream come true.



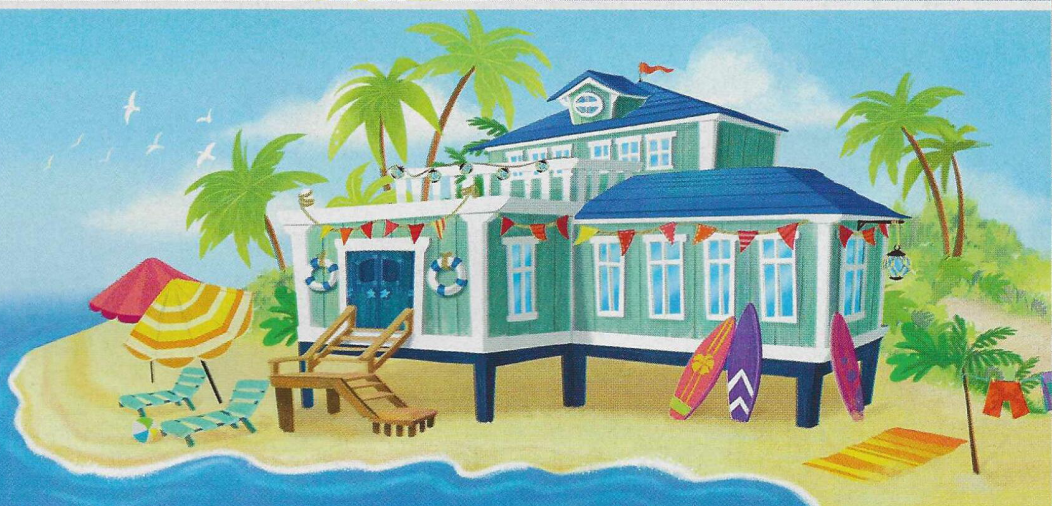
Mostly b's: Big-City Plaza

You're the most outgoing of all your friends—they often call you a "busy bee." You love coming up with new things to do and are the best party planner. You're very fashionable and enjoy little treats in life. Your social nature leads you to make lots of new friends, but you always include your old friends, too. A big-city plaza would be the perfect hotel for you to run.



Mostly c's: Beachside Hotel

You're the queen of relaxing. Your laid-back manner puts everyone around you in a good mood. You're the best at coming up with activities to chill out after a day of nonstop chaos. You love spending time with your friends and family but also need "me" time. You're happiest when you're unwinding, which is why you'd be the perfect owner of a beachside hotel.



Mostly d's: Small-Town Inn

Your sweet and reliable personality is why so many friends love you. You're always thinking of others—whether that be your family, friends, or the animals you adore. When someone needs help or is in trouble, you're the one the person turns to for advice. You're a caring friend and love to make others smile, and that's why you'd own a small-town inn. ★



Brownie Bonanza

Use a brownie mix to bake special treats
for Mother's Day or Father's Day!

Getting Started

For each of these recipes, use a packaged brownie mix meant for an 8-by-8-inch pan. Make the batter according to the package directions.

Brownie Cookie Cups



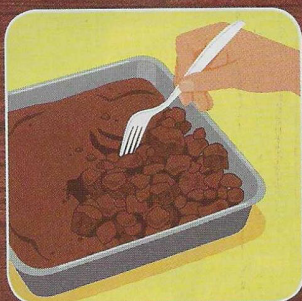
Try a treat that's two desserts in one! Start with a greased mini muffin tin. Spoon about a teaspoon of brownie batter and a teaspoon of chocolate-chip cookie dough into each cup.

Ask an adult to bake the cookie cups in a preheated 350-degree oven for 10–15 minutes. Let cool before removing from the pan.

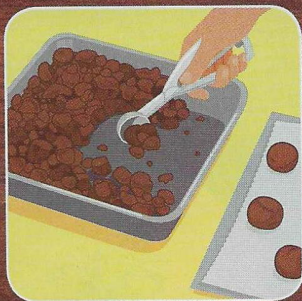


Brownie Bonbons

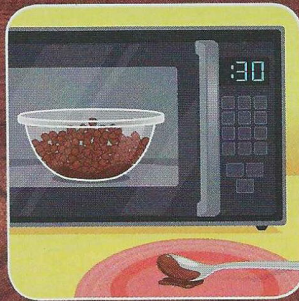
 Decorated brownie bites are a sweet surprise!



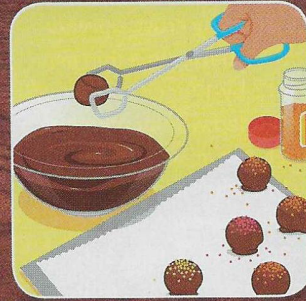
1. Ask an adult to bake brownies according to package directions. Let the brownies cool completely. Then use a plastic fork to break them into little pieces.



2. Use a cookie scoop to roll the brownie pieces into balls. Place the balls on a cookie sheet lined with wax paper. Put the sheet in the freezer for 1 hour.



3. Pour 2 cups chocolate chips in a microwavable bowl. Ask an adult to microwave the chocolate on high, stirring every 30 seconds until melted.



4. Use tongs to dip each brownie ball into the melted chocolate and set back on wax paper. Finish by scattering colored sprinkles on top. Let harden.



Brownie Bark

 This candy bark has a crunchy crust. Spread brownie batter in a thin layer on a 12-by-17-inch cookie sheet lined with parchment paper. Ask an adult to bake the brownies in a preheated 325-degree oven for about 25–30 minutes. Let cool completely. Ask an adult to melt 3 cups white candy

melts in a microwave, stirring every 30 seconds until smooth. Spread the melted candy on top of the brownie crust. Scatter sprinkles on top before the candy sets. Once the candy has hardened, have an adult help you break the brownie bark into pieces.



Brownie Pizzas

 Top a chocolate pizza with fruit! First, ask an adult to bake brownies according to package directions. Let them cool completely. Use a round cookie cutter to cut circles

from the pan of brownies. Set a circle on a plate and decorate with whipped topping and fresh fruit. Serve immediately after decorating or store in a refrigerator.

Swirled Brownies

 Add fun flavor to brownies! Pour brownie batter into a greased 8-by-8-inch pan. Then make one of the following sauces. Drop teaspoonfuls of the sauce on top of the brownie batter, and swirl together with a butter knife. Ask an adult to bake according to package directions.

* **Marshmallow:** Place $\frac{1}{2}$ cup marshmallow creme and 2 teaspoons water in a microwavable bowl. Heat for 10–15 seconds and stir until smooth.

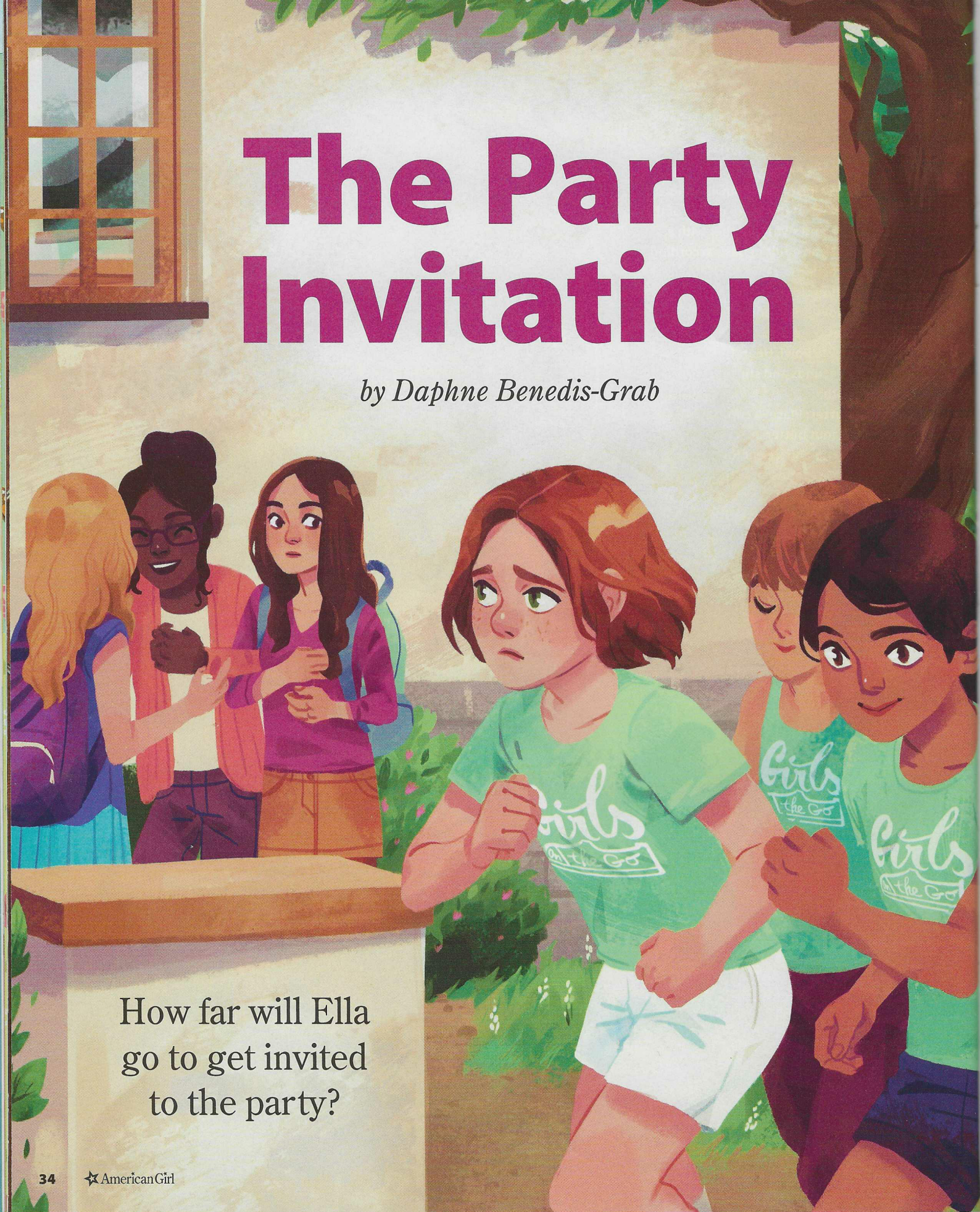
* **Peanut butter:** Place $\frac{1}{4}$ cup creamy peanut butter in microwavable bowl. Heat for about 10–15 seconds and stir until smooth.

* **Raspberry cream cheese:** Mix together one 8-oz. package cream cheese, 1 egg, $\frac{1}{4}$ cup sugar, $\frac{1}{4}$ cup raspberry jam, and a few drops of red food coloring until smooth. ★



The Party Invitation

by Daphne Benedis-Grab



How far will Ella go to get invited to the party?

"Hey, Ella!" I turned and looked down the crowded hall of Kaiser Middle School to see who was calling me. The final bell had just rung and there were people everywhere, but after a second I saw Rachel, a friend from Girls on the Go, pushing her way through.

"It's like a stampede," Rachel said as she caught up to me, smiling. "Everyone wants to get outside."

"Tell me about it," I said. It had been a really cold winter and now that it was finally spring, everyone was eager to get outside the second the bell rang.

"Are you going to the locker room?" she asked. Girls on the Go, our cross-country running team, met Monday through Thursday, so that was normally where I'd be headed on a Tuesday afternoon.

But today I shook my head regretfully. "I have something else I need to do," I said.

"Oh, OK," she said, looking disappointed. "See you tomorrow." She waved and slipped back into the stream of students moving down the hall. I looked after her for a moment, wishing I could go with her. But then I squared my shoulders and headed to the locker alcove by the side door of the school. That was where Lucia was meeting up with her friends and so that was where I, as her best friend, needed to be.

Before this year, being Lucia's best friend never meant missing something fun, because Lucia and I loved all the same stuff and did it together. Starting in second grade, when we became instant best friends on the first day, we went to my house or hers, where we made jewelry and decorated T-shirts every day. Weekends were sleepovers

and craft marathons where we learned to knit and embroider, and last year we designed and then made our own purses. We brought them on the first day of school this year, to start sixth grade "right," as Lucia said. But after a few months, she left hers at home and started carrying what she called a "pre-designer" bag. Soon she wasn't wearing any of our jewelry or shirts. She started hanging out with two girls from a different elementary school—Bethany and Melissa, who spent all their time reading fashion magazines and shopping. And before I knew it, Lucia and I were barely spending any time together at all.

I was busy too, of course, like with Girls on the Go and all the homework we had. My mom told me some things changed in middle school and I definitely got that, like with the huge workload and changing classes. But I also

Why couldn't I say anything right?

knew that some things, like best friends, could never change. I just needed Lucia to remember that too. Which was why I was skipping Girls on the Go and heading to her locker, where she was meeting Bethany and Melissa to go shopping.

I ducked past a group of boys tossing a football and then turned the corner, expecting to see Lucia at her locker. But the area was cleared out. They'd already left.

"Watch it!" a guy yelled. I jumped back as a football sailed over my head.

"Sorry about that," he called, just as the assistant principal showed up and started yelling.

It was definitely time to get out of there. For a second I considered going to Girls on the Go, but then I remembered the other reason I needed to



spend time with Lucia today: her birthday slumber party, the one I'd gone to every year since she first started the tradition back in second grade. Her birthday was in a week and a half, and somehow the party hadn't come up. I figured she was just busy but that once she finally invited

me, it would be just what we needed: a whole night together where she could remember all the fun we'd had together. And then maybe things could go back to the way they were supposed to be.

So I pulled my purse, the one we'd made together, up on one shoulder, straightened my backpack full of books, and headed into town.

"Hey," I said when I walked into Bedazzled, a small store in town that carried things like cupcake earrings, neon socks, and fuzzy headbands. Lucia, Bethany, and Melissa looked up from the tray of earrings and none of them smiled.

"Ella, what are you doing here?" Lucia asked.

It wasn't the greeting I was hoping for, but I forced myself to smile anyway. "I wanted to shop with you guys," I said, coming to stand next to her.

Lucia glanced at Bethany and Melissa and then looked down at the earrings.

"Are you guys going to buy any?" I asked in a cheery voice.

"When we find just the right ones," Bethany said.

"Those are nice," I said, pointing to a set that had

little Eiffel Towers on them.

Bethany giggled but I couldn't tell if it was good laughing or bad.

"Why don't you get them?" Melissa asked me.

"I don't have pierced ears," I said.

Bethany and Melissa both gasped.

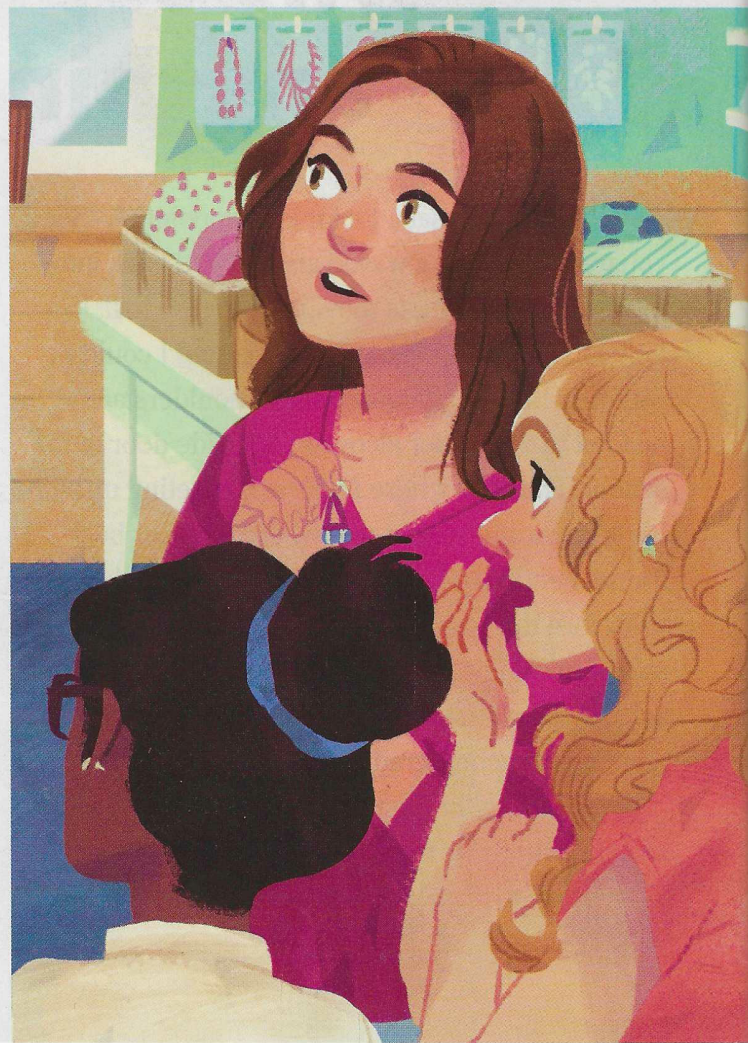
"My mom doesn't believe in it," I said. My mom was into acupuncture and ear piercing disturbed the lines of energy or something. I'd never actually minded before. Lucia didn't have her ears pierced either.

But then I was the one gasping when I looked over at Lucia: she did have her ears pierced!

"When did you get that done?" I asked.

She avoided my eyes. "Um, a couple of weeks ago," she said.

"That's why we're here," Bethany said. "To help her pick out the right kind of earrings."



I couldn't believe Lucia had done something as big as piercing her ears without even telling me. We really needed to start spending more time together.

I glanced down at the earring tray. "Oh, Luc, there are little panda bears," I exclaimed. "Remember when we made matching panda shirts?" It was back in fourth grade, and we'd spent weeks creating them with rhinestones, fabric paint, and embroidery. We were so proud when we put them on and my mom took a picture of the moment, us in our shirts, arms around each other. It was up on our fridge and it made me happy every time I saw it.

But now Lucia was looking at me in alarm.

"Pandas?" Bethany asked, like I'd said dead bats instead of sweet little bears.

"I don't remember," Lucia said quickly, shooting me a look.

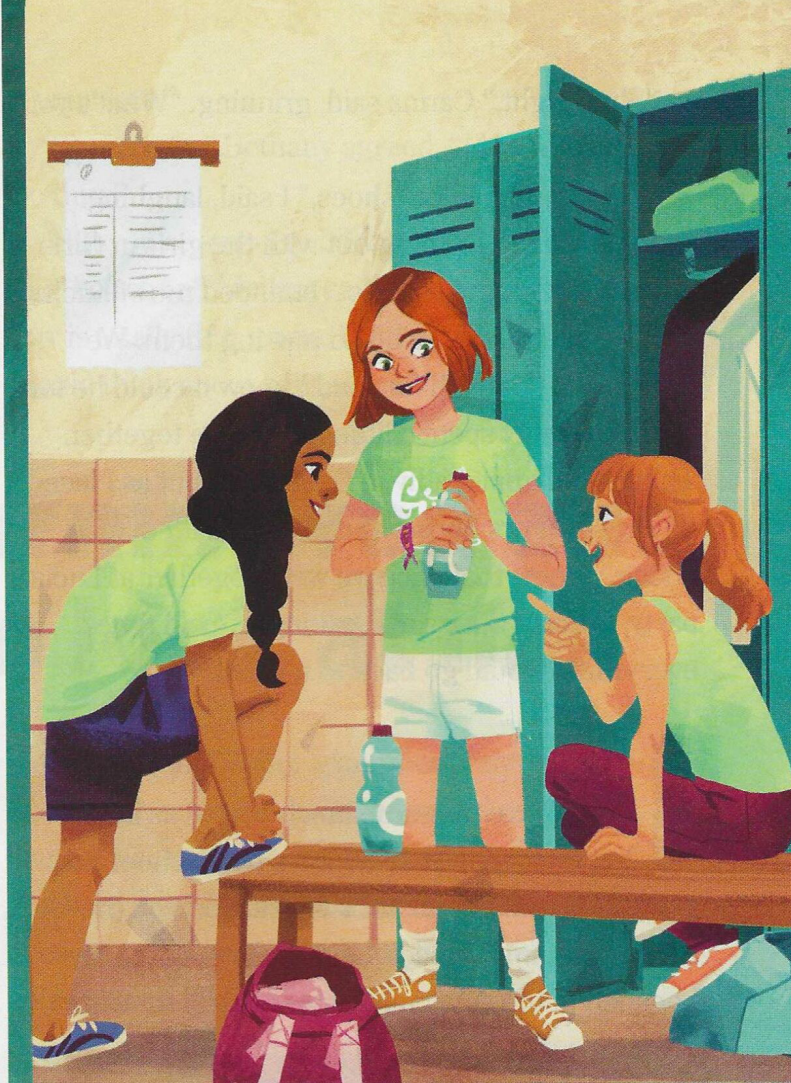
I turned away, biting my lip. Why couldn't I say anything right? I stayed quiet as the three of them pored over the earrings and then moved on to a display of bracelets.

"Are you getting anything?" Melissa asked a few minutes later, when they were finally ready to go. It was the first thing any of them had said to me in almost a half hour, and I suddenly thought that maybe I could be more a part of things if I got something, too.

"Yes," I said, grabbing a fashion magazine off a rack next to the register. I hoped it would get me back in the conversation, but Melissa just turned back to the others.

And a few minutes later I was walking home alone, trying hard to swallow over the huge lump in my throat.

"Oh, Ella, did you make that?" Rachel asked, pointing to the



woven bracelet I had on. We were in the locker room changing for Girls on the Go.

"Yeah," I said. Lucia and I had made them last spring.

"I love it," Rachel gushed. She was pulling on her running tank top.

"I want one," Carina said, leaning over to look.

"I can teach you guys how to make them if you want," I offered.

They both nodded happily.

"Guys, if Coach Levy makes us run sprints I will cry," Beth said, coming in and setting her stuff down on the bench across from us.

"You and me both," Rachel said.

The rest of us agreed, but Rachel shook her head. "Not you, Ella," she said playfully. "You're first every time and you're barely even breathing hard."

"She's right," Carina said, grinning. "What's your secret?"

"I hide wings in my shoes," I said, laughing.

I really liked hanging out with the girls in Girls on the Go. But the bracelet reminded me of Lucia, and the great time we'd had making them. We always had so much fun, and I knew it could be fun again if we just spent a little more time together. Things had gone badly at Bedazzled, but as I laced up my sneakers I promised myself that I'd keep trying. I knew that once we were together at Lucia's party, making things and talking like old times, everything would go back to normal.

I didn't have the same lunch period as Lucia, but every day at 10:30 the whole school had a twenty-minute break for a snack. Girls on the Go usually met up in Coach Levy's office, but today I headed to the courtyard, where Lucia sat with

Bethany and Melissa now that the weather was warm. I needed to take every chance I had to be with Lucia since there were only five more days until her birthday.

They were sitting at one of the benches under an oak tree, and I went right over.

"Hey, Ella," Lucia said. She didn't sound that excited to see me, but she did slide over and make room for me on the bench, so that was good.

I sat down and pulled out my snack, a sprouted wheat muffin with chickpea spread that my mom made.

"Um, what's that?" Bethany asked, looking at my snack, her nose wrinkled like she smelled a rotten hamburger.

I wished I could shove the muffin back in my bag. "Just this stuff my mom makes," I said, trying to laugh it off. "She gets a little nuts with health food." My mom was always reading books about health and trying out new recipes with things like



kale and chia seeds.

"That doesn't even look like food," Melissa said, her lip curled.

I waited for Lucia to say something about how my mom's cooking might look funny but it tasted good. That's what she always said when she came over to our house. But she just grabbed a hand-

of your face."

"She's right," Bethany agreed. "Plus your hair is too thin."

"But you're smart to be thinking about changing your hairstyle," Melissa said. "The way you have it now is totally fifth grade. But Luc, I wonder if you should think about bangs."

Her face was turning red and she refused to look at me.

ful of popcorn out of the bag she was sharing with Bethany and crunched down on it.

They began talking about a modeling reality show they'd all watched the night before. Since I hadn't seen it I just sat silently, eating my muffin, even though my appetite was gone. I glanced at Lucia, watching her giggle with Bethany and Melissa about the show. It was just how we used to be, but now even that had changed.

I did have one more trick up my sleeve, though: the fashion magazine I'd bought at Bedazzled. Last night I'd read it cover to cover, so that I'd have something to say about it today. I waited until they were done rehashing the show and then I broke into the conversation.

"I was just reading about how bangs are really popular right now," I said. "I was thinking maybe I'd get them when I get my hair cut in a couple of weeks."

The three of them turned to me and stared. For a second I worried it was because I'd said something weird, but then I realized they were looking at my hair.

"No," Melissa said finally, shaking her head. "I don't think bangs would work with the shape

of your face." They began talking away about how great bangs would look on Lucia. I wanted to add what I'd learned about bangs, but I was feeling too worried about my own hair to remember any of it. I didn't even know hair could look too fifth grade. And how could I fix that?

The bell rang and we stood up, the three of them still discussing hair.

"We can try it out at your party on Saturday," Melissa said, and then she gasped and covered her mouth.

It took a minute for her words to sink in, but when they did, all I could do was stare at Lucia. Her face was turning red and she refused to look at me. The party on Saturday. Lucia's birthday party. The one she had been planning all this time and the one that I was not invited to.

"Sweetie, what's wrong?" my mom asked. It was Saturday afternoon and I was lying on the sofa in our living room, imagining Bethany and Melissa arriving at Lucia's house, ready for a night of fun. A night of fun without me.

"Nothing," I said, rolling over on my side.

My mom frowned. "You've been down in the dumps for days," she said. "I'm worried about you."

"I'm OK, really," I said.

But she stood there, waiting. That was the thing about my mom: she knew me too well and she never gave up.

"I'm not invited to Lucia's birthday this year," I said. It hurt to say the words.

"Oh, sweetie," my mom said, coming over and wrapping her arms around me. It was kind of hard because I was lying down, but she managed and it felt pretty good. I waited for her to tell me a comforting story or give me advice, like she usually did when I had a problem. But instead she was silent for a moment. Then she stood up, pulling me with her.

"You know what?" she said. "We're going to make our own party."

And before I knew it, we were out the door, heading to the White Hen Grocery at the corner. We walked in and my mom threw out her arms. "Get anything you want," she said grandly.

"Really?" I asked, not believing it. She always had at least one food rule, like half of what I got had to be fresh fruit or something. But this time my mom shook her head. "Bring on the junk food," she said.

Wow. Maybe she couldn't fix everything, but she sure knew how to make it a fun night! I piled our cart with spicy chips, honey pretzels, cheddar potato chips, chewy fruit candy, chocolate chip cookies, and three kinds of ice cream.

"Go ahead and put everything away," my mom said when we got home. "I just need to do a few things upstairs. Oh, and honey, think about whether you'd like to invite anyone to join us."

The only person I wanted to ask was having her own party. As I opened up the freezer I couldn't help staring at the picture of me and Lucia in our panda shirts that was stuck to our fridge with a ladybug magnet. We looked so happy together, so different from now when she was with her new friends and I was alone.

As I closed the freezer I noticed the bracelet on my arm, the one that Rachel and Carina had asked about. And I began to realize that maybe I wasn't really alone after all. I loved Girls on the Go, the running and the girls on the team. It was so easy being with them, totally comfortable and fun. The way it used to be with Lucia. And for the first time I realized that maybe Lucia wasn't the only one who had changed. Maybe I had changed, too. And maybe that was OK. I'd been super excited to sign up for Girls on the Go and thrilled to meet other girls who loved running as much as I did. We had a great time running together and hanging out, and now it turned out Rachel and Carina liked crafts, too. Which meant we could have all kinds of good times together after Girls on the Go and on weekends. And, I realized with growing excitement, at the party my mom and I were throwing tonight!

I reached out to take down the picture of me and





Lucia but then I stopped. We'd had a fantastic time making those shirts, and I wanted to keep those memories. So I left the picture up, knowing it would still make me smile when I saw it.

"What did you decide?" my mom asked as she walked back into the kitchen.

"I'll call my friends from Girls on the Go," I told her happily. "We can make bracelets."

"Sounds great," my mom said.

It really did. ★

Meet the Author

Daphne Benedis-Grab



About
age 10



Now

I changed a lot in middle school, as did many of my friends. Sometimes that was hard, but in the end

I found the people who truly liked and supported me—and that is the best kind of friend there is!





This That?

Travel Bug



Would you rather...

hike the Great Wall of China



have a picnic at the Eiffel Tower?

journal your entire trip



film different parts of it?

sightsee in Yellowstone Park



go shopping in New York City?

ride cross-country in a train in Ireland



ride a trolley in San Francisco?

do a weeklong horseback riding trail



a weekend snowboarding trip in the Rockies?



go to a Broadway play



walk across the Golden Gate Bridge?

go bird-watching in a rain forest



ice fishing in Antarctica?

collect snow globes from every place you've visited



decorate your room with maps?



sleep in a two-story camper



under the stars?

visit a history museum



an aquarium?

travel with a bright blue backpack



a sparkly rolling bag?



photograph Mt. Rushmore



Niagara Falls?

be in an Italian runway show



go hiking in Scotland?

help build a school in another country

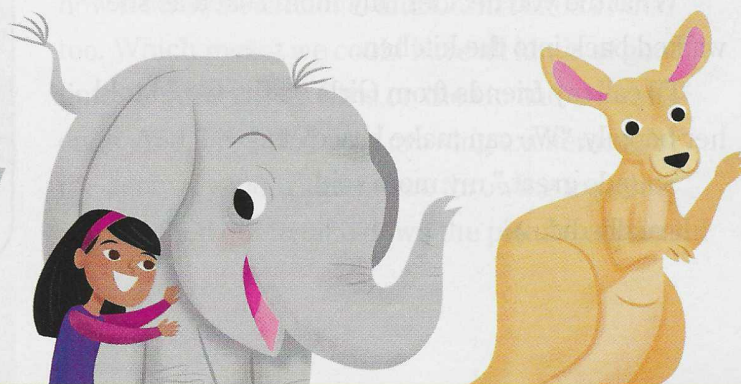


study endangered animals?

pet an elephant in Thailand



see a kangaroo in Australia?



Breathe



★ American Girl®

Copyright © 2015 American Girl. All rights reserved. All American Girl marks are trademarks of American Girl.

Stop and smell the flowers



★ American Girl®

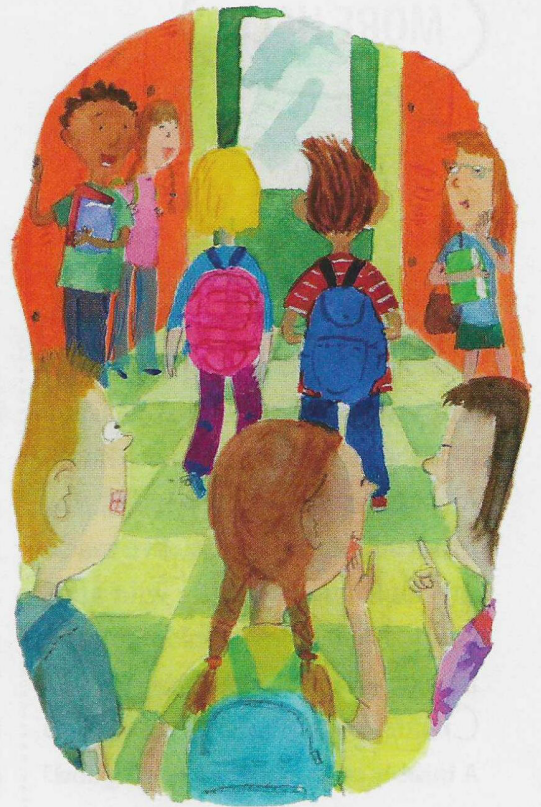
Copyright © 2015 American Girl. All rights reserved. All American Girl marks are trademarks of American Girl.

HELP!

Dear American Girl,

I've been best friends with a boy since kindergarten. Now we're in middle school, and it's getting awkward. But I still want to be friends! Stay Friends?

Often, it's the way others react to a boy-girl friendship that makes it awkward. Remember that things don't HAVE to be weird just because you're friends with a boy. If anyone gives you a hard time, act bored. "Yep, we're friends." If it's just you feeling strange, don't ditch your friend. Those feelings won't stick if you focus on being a good friend.



Dear American Girl,

Writing is my passion! But I can never seem to finish a story. I can start them, but... *Out of Ideas!*

Instead of trying to write a whole long story at once, write one scene. (It can be less than one page!) Invent a character, and then make something happen. If you decide that the character is interesting, write another scene starring her. If she makes your writing difficult, imagine some other characters and things to happen with them instead. Once you have scenes you like, add more scenes. Soon, you'll have a story.



Dear American Girl,

My backpack is SO heavy. Going to and from school makes my shoulders hurt. What can I do? *Weighed Down*

Start by cleaning out your backpack. Throw away any trash, and be sure you're carrying only one of each item. (Meaning one pen, not six!) Then use your homework planner to figure out which books you need each day, and bring home only those. Use both straps to carry your pack, and be sure the straps are adjusted so that the pack doesn't slouch. Talk to a parent or teacher if you need more help organizing.



Dear American Girl,

My friend has a serious nut allergy. I want to invite her over, but we have nuts at our house. *Worried Friend*

Not everyone would bother to work with a friend's allergy and try to make her comfortable. It's kind and caring of you to do that. Tell your friend that you'd like to invite her over, and then ask if it's OK for your parent to call her parent about it. Let the adults work out how to make things safe for your friend and fun for the two of you. If that means you have to hang out at her house instead, well, then that's just fine.



MORE HELP!

Dear American Girl,

I'll be in fifth grade next year, and I want to be known as the most calm and mature kid in the grade. The problem is, I've made myself known as being wild and crazy. Everybody thinks of me that way. How can I change?

Crazy Girl

A bubbly personality can be a good thing! It can help you participate in class discussions, liven up group activities, and leave people laughing at recess. You don't need to change who you are to change what people think of you. Part of being mature is knowing how your behavior affects others. So pay attention to how people react to you. If it's positive, great! If people seem put off or annoyed (or if you get into trouble), tone it down. You don't need to be "the calm girl"—you just need to be calm when it counts. But: If you've been *acting* wild just to impress people, quit it. Figure out who the real you is, and share that around. It's hard to make good friends when you're not being real.



Dear American Girl,

My friends keep telling me how pale I am. So I went to the beach and didn't use any sunscreen. A few hours later, I was red as a tomato! I need to know how to get a tan without getting burned.

Fried

Here's what's true: People have different skin colors. Whatever you're born with is right for you, and it's important to take care of



what you've got. That includes doing all you can to avoid sunburn. Rays from the sun or tanning salons can lead to wrinkles, age spots, or even skin cancer. (There really is no such thing as a "healthy tan.") Everyone needs to wear sunscreen outside, no matter her skin color. To your friends, say, "No tans for me—I'm protecting my skin."



Dear American Girl,

My friends are allowed to say some words that I'm not allowed to say. They want me to say the words, too, and I don't know how to handle that.

What should I do?
There's no need to break your parents' rules to please your friends. Besides, the more often you say things you're not supposed to say, the more likely you are to say them at a time when you don't want to. (Right in front of your mom, for example.) To your friends, say, "I don't need anyone telling me what to say. Got to make my own choices, you know?"





Dear American Girl,

My friend is moving because her parents got a divorce.

I want to say I'm sorry but

I don't want to make her sad.

Please help

It's OK to let someone know you're thinking of her. If your friend is already sad, you wouldn't be making her sad by telling her that you care. Sometimes when people are sad, they don't want to burden others with their problems. So if you open the door, your friend might be more likely to reach out for your support.



Dear American Girl,

My mom and I argue constantly.

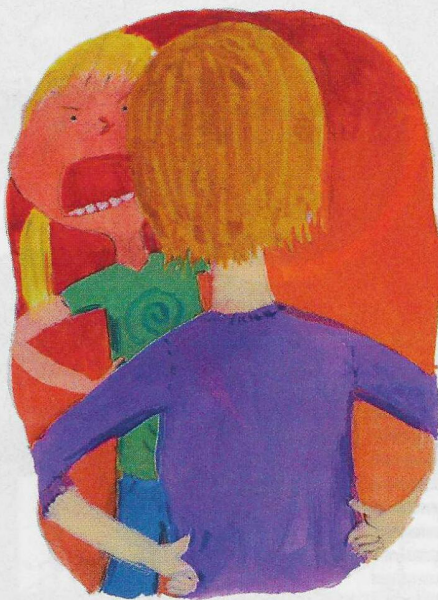
She says I'm moody because I'm 11, but I think the way she talks to me is part of the problem!

I want to be close to her again, but I don't know how.

Upset

It could be that you're both right.

When you're growing up, your emotions can make you act moody and annoyed. And your mom might still be figuring out the best way to talk to a girl who's growing up and



changing. Together with your mom, come up with a code to use when an argument is building. It's a lot easier to understand each other when no one is angry, so one of you can use the code (maybe "Ready? Break!"), take a break, and come back to talk when all is calm. Good luck.



Dear American Girl,

There's a girl who makes me really jealous. She can draw better than me, she's nicer than me, she's prettier than me, and she wins at EVERYTHING.

How can I deal with that?

Jealous

Think about this: There are people out there who can draw way better than this girl can. There are people nicer than her, too. But she shouldn't

compare herself with those people, right? She's great as she is, and she should keep being that. So should you. There will always, *always* be others to compare yourself with, and being jealous doesn't do any good. Instead, focus on being your own best you (and not getting hung up on what others do). Then you'll be a girl who's happy with herself, and *that* is an admirable quality.



Advice from You

"What should you do if you have an interest or hobby that your friends don't like? Do it anyway! It's not good to feel as if your friends need to approve everything you do. True friends support you no matter what."

Kaija R.

Age 12, Iowa

Need advice? Got advice? Write: Help!

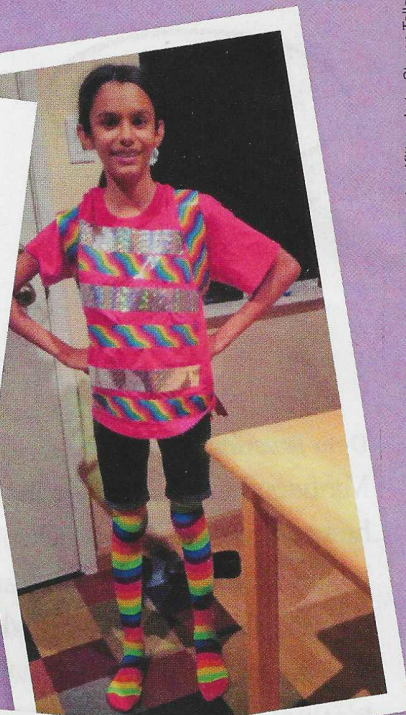
American Girl magazine

8400 Fairway Place
Middleton, WI 53562

Visit americangirl.com/playmagazine to see an adorable video of the kitten on our cover!



Opal M.'s Rainbow Runway submission was inspired by her colorful Halloween costume!



Visit americangirl.com/playmagazine to see more Rainbow Runway creations!

Behind the Scenes

This issue of *American Girl* magazine is bursting with color!

Yum! Check out the delicious treats from our Brownie Bonanza photo shoot.



Answer these bonus This or That questions or go to americangirl.com/playmagazine for another This or That quiz!

Would you rather...

1. visit a Scottish castle **OR** a fancy British mansion?
2. go on a ten-hour bus ride **OR** a five-hour plane ride?
3. travel to the biggest amusement park **OR** to the set of your favorite movie?
4. bake a cake that looks like a bike **OR** one that looks like a giant cruise ship?
5. go cave spelunking **OR** on a safari adventure?



Stop the drama, start the fun!

Smart girl's guides give great advice in a fun way.



NEW!

Discover clever questions, thoughtful answers, and fun quizzes—all geared toward gaining a better understanding of drama and how it starts. Then, take control with great tips that help girls reduce drama, get rid of gossip, and create kindness, too! Ages 10+

PLUS: Check out updated favorites in the Smart Girl's Guide series to find even more expert advice and tips!

 **American Girl®**

Discover these fun new books at the American Girl store nearest you, online at americangirl.com, or at your local bookstore.
Must be at least 18 years of age to purchase online.

Coming up in the July issue of *American Girl* magazine

Craft Camp

You'll love these sweet summer crafts.

Tiny Turtles

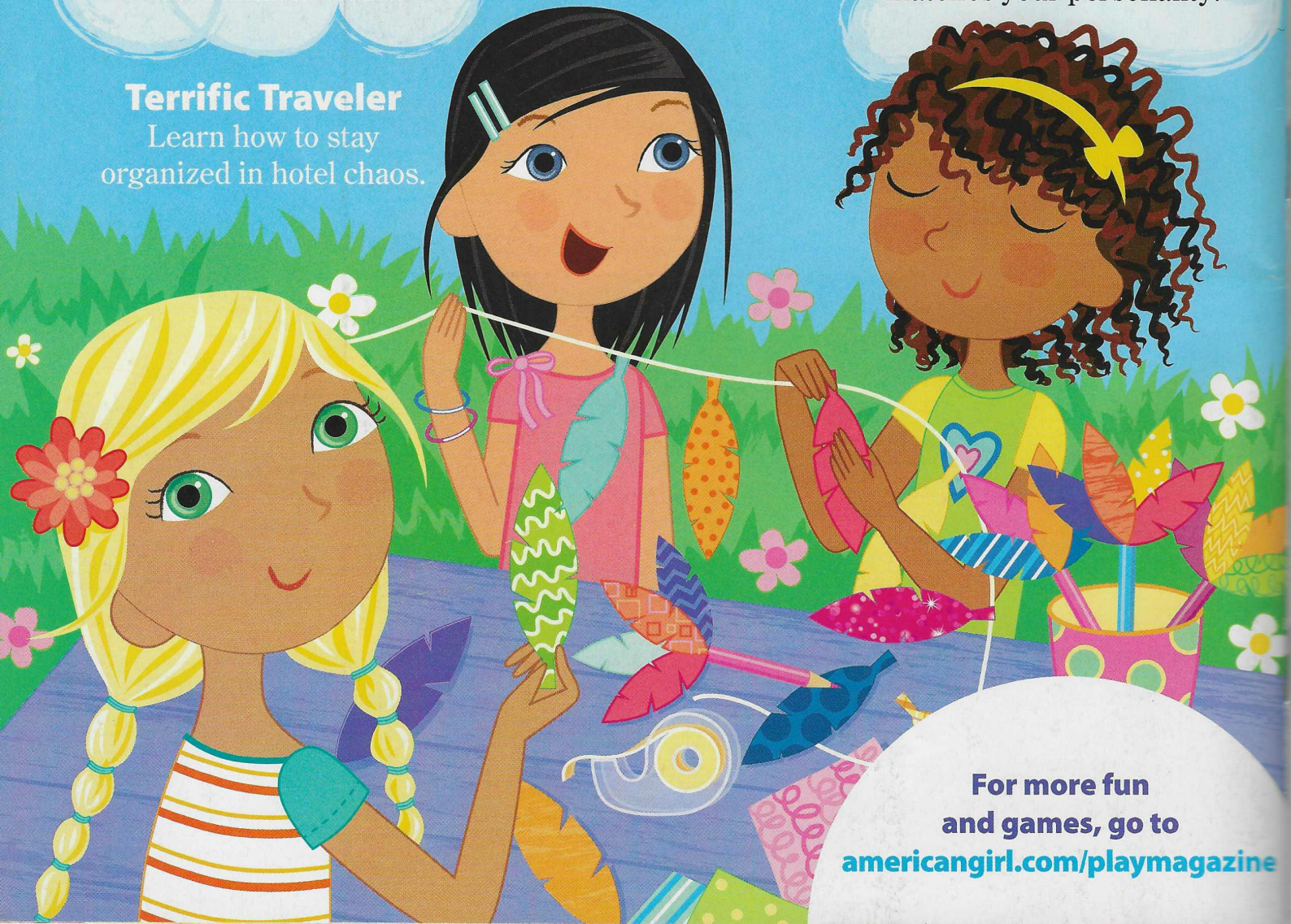
Read about a girl who saves baby sea turtles.

Rides and Slides

Which water park ride matches your personality?

Terrific Traveler

Learn how to stay organized in hotel chaos.



For more fun
and games, go to
americangirl.com/playmagazine

AG's Kindness Catcher

Use these fortune-tellers to spread kindness!
Each time you play, you'll brighten someone's day.

How to fold a Kindness Catcher:

- 1. Cut out one square. Fold and unfold it in half diagonally in both directions to make an X. Place the square number-side down.
- 2. Fold each corner point into the center.
- 3. Flip so that flaps are facedown. Then fold each corner into the center.
- 4. Fold in half this way to crease.
- 5. Then unfold and fold in half the other way.
- 6. Stick both thumbs and pointer fingers into the four pockets. Push all the pockets to a point to begin playing.

See other side for how to play!

Nice Collect school supplies and donate them to a school in need.	Caring Make adorable cards and deliver them to a children's hospital or nursing home.	6
Sweet Offer to walk a neighbor's dog or help with yard work.	Heart Surprise a friend with a handmade gift.	
Helpful Hold a door open for someone.	Joy Do you know someone going through a hard time? Surprise her with a treat.	
Love Help a sibling with homework.	Friend Leave a little change in a vending machine.	
Great Clean your room without being asked.	Positive Compliment five of your classmates.	
Happy Ask a parent if you can bake cookies on your mail carrier.	Cheer Help your teacher tidy up his or her classroom.	
Family Collect cans of food for your local food pantry.	True Donate gently used books to a library in need.	
Charming Call a grandparent or other family member and ask about their day.	Brave Tell your parents that you love them and thank them for all they do.	

Make someone's day.

Help others.

American Girl

Copyright © 2015 American Girl. All rights reserved. All American Girl marks are trademarks of American Girl.

Care.

Be kind.

American Girl

Copyright © 2015 American Girl. All rights reserved. All American Girl marks are trademarks of American Girl.

How to Play

- 1. Insert your pointer fingers and thumbs under the numbered flaps on the Kindness Catcher.
- 2. Ask a friend to choose a number from one of the outside flaps, or choose one yourself. Open and close your fingers that number of times, moving them front to back and then sideways. (You can play on your own, too.)
- 3. You or your friend will choose one of the words on the inside of the Kindness Catcher. Spell out the word, opening and closing your fingers with each letter.
- 4. Pick one of the words that shows. Open that flap and read the message beneath. ★



Surprise Do a chore for someone in your family.	Bright Leave sweet messages written in chalk on your driveway for those walking by to see.	6
Honest Smile and say "hello" to people who pass you at school.	Loyal Say "hi" to someone new and make a friend.	
Dream Surprise your parents by cleaning up the house.	Adorable Ask a parent if you can buy a meal or a drink for the person standing in line.	
Smile Write a letter to someone who has made a difference in your life.	Important Offer to play with a younger neighbor so her parents can get things done around the house.	
Generous Take out the garbage without being asked.	Super Go through your old toys and clothes with a parent and donate what you don't use.	
Sincere Make a thank-you card and bookmark for your local librarian.	Laugh Help a neighbor or family member unload groceries.	
Awesome Plan a family movie night and let someone else pick the film.	Cute Tell a friend why she's so important to you.	
Wonder Let someone go before you in line.	Marvelous Deliver a magazine to a friend who is cheering up.	

Take advantage of our special **Preferred Subscriber** combo offer!

Get All American Girl Special Issues! Everyday Fun & Holiday



Subscribe to *American Girl* magazine now with our **Preferred Subscriber** combo offer, and she'll also receive our extra special **Everyday Fun & Holiday** 2015 issues.

HURRY—quantities are limited.
Reserve your copies today!

Everyday Fun 2015 on sale starting 7/14/15 and Holiday 2015 on sale starting 11/17/15

SUBSCRIPTION COMBO OFFER

Subscribe today and save 50% with our combo offer

☒ **Yes!** I want a one-year (6 issues) subscription to *American Girl* magazine, plus a copy of the **Everyday Fun** in July and **Holiday** in November. That's 8 issues in all for just \$27!

☐ 1 year (6 issues) plus 2 **Special Issues** (8 issues in all) for \$27. I save \$28.60 off the cover price.

☐ Bill me later ☐ Payment enclosed

Send bill to:

(please print)

Adult's name (required)

Address

City

State

Zip

Adult's e-mail address

Send magazine to:

(please print)

Girl's name

Girl's birth date (optional)

Address

City

State

Zip

Guarantee: You may cancel at any time and receive a full refund for all unserved issues. Everyday Fun issue publishes in July, and Holiday publishes in November. All non-US addresses \$37 U.S. per year, prepaid only for combo offer. Savings based on newsstand price of \$55.60 for 6 issues plus special issues. To learn more about American Girl magazine or remove your name from our mailing list, call 800-334-1278. 4/7/15 © 2015 American Girl. H10QWA

HURRY! Become a Preferred Subscriber today!



Subscribe today
and save 60% with
our combo offer!

Get
Everyday Fun
and three more
special issues!

☒ **Yes!** I want two years (12 issues) of *American Girl* magazine, plus all special issues as soon as they are printed. That's 16 issues in all for just \$45!

Guarantee: You may cancel at any time and receive a full refund for all unserved issues. Everyday Fun issue publishes in July and Holiday publishes in November. All non-US addresses \$37 U.S. per year, prepaid only for combo offer. Savings based on newsstand price of \$55.60 for 6 issues plus special issues. To learn more about American Girl magazine or remove your name from our mailing list, call 800-334-1278. 4/7/15 © 2015 American Girl.

☐ 2 years (12 issues) plus **Everyday Fun & Holiday** issues (16 issues in all) for \$45. I save \$66.20 off the cover price.

☐ Bill me later ☐ Payment enclosed

Send bill to:

(please print)

Adult's name (required)

Address

City

State

Zip

Adult's e-mail address

Send magazine to:

(please print)

Girl's name

Girl's birth date (optional)

Address

City

State

Zip

H10QWA

For the fastest service, visit americangirlmagazine.com or call 800-234-1278 to reserve your copy today!



Subscribe today
and save 60% with
our combo offer!

Get
Everyday Fun
and three more
special issues!

☒ **Yes!** I want two years (12 issues) of *American Girl* magazine, plus all special issues as soon as they are printed. That's 16 issues in all for just \$45!

Guarantee: You may cancel at any time and receive a full refund for all unserved issues. Everyday Fun issue publishes in July and Holiday publishes in November. All non-US addresses \$37 U.S. per year, prepaid only for combo offer. Savings based on newsstand price of \$55.60 for 6 issues plus special issues. To learn more about American Girl magazine or remove your name from our mailing list, call 800-334-1278. 4/7/15 © 2015 American Girl.

☐ 2 years (12 issues) plus **Everyday Fun & Holiday** issues (16 issues in all) for \$45. I save \$66.20 off the cover price.

☐ Bill me later ☐ Payment enclosed

Send bill to:

(please print)

Adult's name (required)

Address

City

State

Zip

Adult's e-mail address

Send magazine to:

(please print)

Girl's name

Girl's birth date (optional)

Address

City

State

Zip

H10QWA

New **Everyday Fun** Special Issue—coming in July 2015!

Crafts

advice

recipes

quizzes

and more!

This special issue also comes with these three **free gifts**:

- Friends mini book
- Fun stickers
- Mini poster book

To order online, visit americangirlmagazine.com.

Available at newsstands starting 07/14/15



J53SCHDB



NO POSTAGE
NECESSARY
IF MAILED
IN THE
UNITED STATES

BUSINESS REPLY MAIL

FIRST-CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO. 190 BOONE IA USA

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE



Magazine Subscription Dept
PO BOX 5532
HARLAN IA 51593-3032



J53SCHDB2



NO POSTAGE
NECESSARY
IF MAILED
IN THE
UNITED STATES

BUSINESS REPLY MAIL

FIRST-CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO. 190 BOONE IA USA

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE



Magazine Subscription Dept
PO BOX 5532
HARLAN IA 51593-3032



J53SCHD2



NO POSTAGE
NECESSARY
IF MAILED
IN THE
UNITED STATES

BUSINESS REPLY MAIL

FIRST-CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO. 190 BOONE IA USA

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE



Magazine Subscription Dept
PO BOX 5532
HARLAN IA 51593-3032

